

Israel protests arms sale to Syria

PRAGUE (AP) — Israel's ambassador to Prague has protested Czechoslovakia's plans to sell arms to Syria, the state news agency CTK reported Friday. Earlier this week, Czechoslovakia announced it would sell Soviet-designed T-72 tanks worth \$200 million to Syria unless the United States provided extensive aid in converting Czechoslovakia's arms factories to non-military production. Czechoslovakia, a major arms exporter under the Communists, says it needs the money from the sale of already manufactured weapons to convert its arms factories to peaceful uses. About 80,000 skilled workers could lose their jobs if the arms industry is shut down, especially in Slovakia, the republic making up the country's eastern and less-industrialised third. In a protest to the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Yoel Sher said his country understood Czechoslovakia's difficulties, but added that selling arms to Syria would contradict the spirit of support for Israel following the Gulf war, CTK said. He expressed hope that Czechoslovakia's industrial conversion could be accomplished without threatening the Jewish state, CTK said.

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U.N. envoy appeals for more aid

NICOSIA (AP) — The head of United Nations relief efforts in the Gull urged greater foreign aid for Iraqi refugees and said they must not remain indefinitely in camps. Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan told a news conference in Tehran that United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) needed more aid to cope with refugee relief, saying it has received only about \$100 million of the \$400 million requested. "Under no circumstances should life in refugee camps become permanent," he said in remarks reported by the Islamic Republic News Agency. "But at the same time, the refugees should return to their homes of their own free will, voluntarily and without any force," he added. The envoy said the United Nations hoped to create conditions in Iraq that would lure home the estimated one million Kurds and Shiite Muslims who fled to Iran. Hundreds of thousands also fled to Turkey, or to the Iraqi side of the borders with Iran and Turkey. Prince Aga Khan said he hoped that ongoing talks between the Iraqi government and Kurds on autonomy would encourage the return of the refugees. The envoy, who arrived Wednesday, was due to visit Turkey and Iraq following his stay in Iran.

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Iraq offers automatic army retirement

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi government, in a further military reform, has offered automatic retirement to soldiers and non-commissioned officers who had served 25 years in the army. The defence ministry newspaper Al Qadisiyah said Friday that the order meant the soldiers would no longer need the approval of their superior officers to retire. Military regulations previously allowed retirement after 25 years of service. Iraq has released tens of thousands of soldiers from service after the Gulf war ended. All private soldiers, born between 1947 and 1960 have been demobilised. The one-million strong Popular Army, a paramilitary group formed mainly of 16 and 17 year olds who are below the age of conscription, was also disbanded last month.

Canada probes Mashat migration

TORONTO (AP) — An embarrassed Canadian government is questioning immigration and external affairs employees to try to determine how the former Iraqi ambassador to the United States wound up here as an immigrant. "A priority review is under way," said Gerry Maffre, spokesman for employment and immigration Canada. "The minister has asked why the ministers of the day were not apprised while a high-profile case was being handled." Mohammad Al Mashat, 60, the man frequently seen on U.S. television defending Iraq's take over of Kuwait in the days before the outbreak of war, was awarded permanent resident status in Canada on March 27 as a financially independent retiree. The immigration procedure was carried out in perfectly legal manner, but without the knowledge of senior officials. As a landed immigrant, Mr. Mashat is eligible for Canadian citizenship after three years. Mr. Mashat's whereabouts were unknown.

Lebanese minister to visit Iran

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's foreign minister, Farid Bouez, accepted an invitation Friday to visit Iran in the near future, sources at his ministry said. Mr. Bouez agreed during a meeting with Iranian Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Zamanzam to visit Iran after a trip to Cairo Monday, the sources added. No exact date was set.

Sikh found guilty of Tokyo bombing

VANCOUVER (R) — A Canadian judge Friday convicted a 37-year-old Sikh of helping to kill two Japanese airport workers in a 1985 bomb explosion at Tokyo's Narita airport. Justice Raymond Paris of the British Columbia supreme court also ruled thatINDERJIT Singh Rayat, who has been in jail in Canada since being extradited from Britain in 1989, was guilty of four explosives charges arising from the blast which killed two baggage-handlers. Mr. Paris found that Rayat helped make the bomb, contained in a suitcase that had just been removed from a Vancouver flight. The suitcase was marked for transfer in Tokyo to a Bangkok-bound Air India flight, but the bomb detonated early.

Fire in Cairo kills 1, burns 4

CAIRO (AP) — A fire fed by a burning gas pipe erupted in an apartment building in a suburb of Cairo Friday killing one woman and burning four other people, police said. The fire erupted on the balcony of a flat on the seventh floor of a building in the Maadi district south of Cairo, said Mohammad Al Mashat, a policeman in the investigations department at the Maadi police station. Al-Mashat said gas pipes carried the flames to the 11th and 12th floors sparing the stories in between. He did not know what triggered the fire which has been extinguished by firemen. The policeman said all the casualties were Egyptian citizens. He said the four burned victims, a three-year-old boy, is in critical condition.

Bessmertnykh: Time ripe to push for peace

CAIRO (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh said Friday that the time was right to push Middle East peace talks.

"This is a good chance to start the peace process," he told reporters at Cairo airport. "We should not miss the chance, but do our best."

He is to hold talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Mr. Bessmertnykh arrived from Israel, the first visit by a Soviet foreign minister to the Jewish state since its creation in 1948.

He described his talks there with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levy as useful.

But he sidestepped differences over Israel's building of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the timing of a resumption of full Soviet-Israeli relations.

Mr. Bessmertnykh withheld full diplomatic recognition of the Jewish state but said Moscow would not pressure Israel in peace talks with Arabs.

Mr. Bessmertnykh played down differences over Jewish settlement of the occupied lands and Israel's terms for agreeing to Moscow playing a role in Middle East peace efforts with Washington.

"We agreed that no country would try to put pressure on any

country in the (peace) process... there will be no artificial pressure," Mr. Bessmertnykh told an airport news conference before leaving for Cairo.

Mr. Bessmertnykh sidestepped questions about whether the Kremlin would resume full diplomatic ties with Israel.

A top aide to Mr. Shamir, Avi Pazner, said that Mr. Bessmertnykh did not bring up the settlements during a meeting with the prime minister and a group of advisers. It was not clear if he raised the issue in a separate private meeting with Mr. Shamir.

Mr. Pazner said Mr. Bessmertnykh and Mr. Shamir reached a general agreement "that there is a need to advance towards peace... it is an important agreement between two countries like Israel and the Soviet Union."

Speaking at a news conference at Ben-Gurion airport before leaving for Cairo, Mr. Bessmertnykh said he and Israeli leaders discussed "practical aspects" of a peace conference, but he gave no details.

He was asked why he was not using the phrase "regional peace conference," as proposed by Israel as a step towards bilateral talks with the Arabs.

Cutting through the arguments on nomenclature, Mr. Bessmertnykh said he thought the simple phrase "peace conference" best described its purpose.

Mr. Bessmertnykh said his country and Israel agreed to work



Alexander Bessmertnykh

together for Middle East peace.

Mr. Bessmertnykh said his meeting with Mr. Shamir and Mr. Levy "allow me to speak with greater conviction about the fact that the chance for achieving peace... for starting talks, is quite great."

The Soviet official also said his trip was "an important stage in renewing ties between Israel and the Soviet Union."

The six-hour visit underscored the transformation of Soviet-Israeli relations since President Mikhail Gorbachev came to power.

"Whoever thinks the Soviet Union will play a role that leads to war in the Middle East is an enemy of peace," said Mr. Levy. He added the Soviet Union was working for peace "to make its contribution, and Israel welcomes it with joy."

After his two-hour discussion with Mr. Levy, Mr. Bessmertnykh said the two countries would cooperate on organising a Middle East peace conference.

Soviet foreign minister's talks in Amman 'very constructive, fruitful'

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh Friday concluded two days of "very constructive" talks with Jordan's top leadership on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem underlining the two countries' common understanding on the need to implement international legitimacy and end Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories before a regional conference starts.

"We have a very good understanding and I am very satisfied with the results of our talks," His Majesty King Hussein told reporters at a joint press conference with Mr. Bessmertnykh Thursday.

Jordan was especially pleased with the Soviet official's statement on the need to end Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank before a conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem starts.

"I just can't foresee or conceive, can't accept a situation when the peace conference is in session while the settlements are going to be built," Mr. Bessmertnykh told reporters. He even indicated that Moscow

might use Soviet Jewish emigration as a lever to halt new Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

"I do not want to exclude anything when we talk about the necessity to stop construction of settlements on the occupied territories," he said.

The issue of Soviet immigration to Israel was one of the topics expected to be brought up by the Jordanian side with the Soviet foreign minister. However, the focus remained on Jewish settlements in the occupied territories; by extension and inference, the massive influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and its negative consequences on peace efforts in the form of increased settlements in the occupied territories.

Foreign Minister Taher Masi had told the Jordan Times Wednesday that Jordan believes the Soviet Union holds "a very important card because it can control the massive influx of Soviet Jews into Israel."

"The question is going to be solved," Mr. Bessmertnykh promised Thursday. "The Soviet Union and others are going to deal with the problem straightforwardly as one of the things to be solved before a conference starts."

But, before departing Jordan for Israel, Mr. Bessmertnykh described the massive influx of Soviet Jews into Israel as "part of our general policy of democratisation in the Soviet Union."

Jordanian officials say the immigration would hinder U.S.-led efforts to bring Israel to exchange territories in return for peace with Arabs.

More than 200,000 Soviet Jews have arrived in Israel since Moscow relaxed its emigration policy two years ago. Several thousand have settled in the occupied territories.

The Soviet minister rejected Israel's tailing its acceptance to attend a peace parity with concerned Arab states under American and Soviet direct sponsorship with reestablishing diplomatic ties with Israel.

He said that resuming relations between the two countries and Soviet participation in the proposed peace conference are "two separate issues."

"We do not accept any preconditions for our participation in the Middle East peace process," he said. In a departure statement at Amman airport, Mr. Bessmertnykh again said that there was "no formal connection" between the two issues.

"When we see that Israel is going to be an integral part of the process, that would definitely facilitate the restoration of the diplomatic relationship," Mr. Bessmertnykh said.

He said that his country will announce the restoration of ties "within the framework of the peace conference or process in this area."

Mr. Bessmertnykh's four-nation Middle East tour comes almost in tandem with U.S. Secretary of State

James Baker's fourth Middle East peace shuttle to the region.

While Jordanian officials expressed confidence in the Soviet Union saying that it "continues to maintain its traditional role in the region," they add that optimism has to be withheld until the results of Mr. Baker's tour become clear.

Before reaching any final conclusions on the peace process, Foreign Minister Masi told reporters, "those who are exerting the most effort, primarily the American secretary of state and now joined by his Soviet counterpart, must work on narrowing the gap between the concerned parties over the main points then initiate a peace process one way or another."

Mr. Bessmertnykh underscored intensive U.S.-Soviet cooperation in getting a Middle East peace conference started saying Moscow hoped to prod Israel to give up occupied land in exchange for peace.

"I believe that the two of us, the Soviet Union and the U.S., may do something positive to help the participants to start their own peace process," he told reporters upon arrival in Amman Thursday.

He said Moscow was working to get Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories, but he did not say how. However, the Soviet official pointed out that Moscow did not

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U.N. troops formalise Safwan border zone

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — United Nations peacekeepers Friday formally declared the Iraq-Kuwait border a demilitarised zone and said there have been no reports of ceasefire violations.

Majed Fayad, spokesman for the U.N. mission, told a news conference that the 15-kilometre wide buffer zone established in the aftermath of the Gulf war was "calm and there are no reports of violations."

Almost 300 unarmed military observers, supported by more than 450 infantry troops, are manning observation posts and patrolling along the 190-kilometre border, Mr. Fayad said.

He said the U.N. mission confirmed late Thursday night that all American, Iraqi and Kuwaiti forces had pulled out of the border strip.

The U.N. soldiers are limited to monitoring the buffer zone and have no authority to take physical action unless it is in self-defence.

The Iraqis and the Kuwaitis will handle all civil administration in their territory, including police duties and border control.

Iraqi police have been reported in Safwan, Mr. Fayad said, adding that the U.N. mission was still holding talks with Iraq to determine the number of police in the town.

The spokesman said it should be a reasonable number for the small population of only several thousand and the police should be limited to routine law and order responsibilities.

The U.S. military completed its withdrawal from southern Iraq on Wednesday after transferring thousands of refugees from an army-run camp in Safwan to a Saudi Arabian camp in Rafha.

The Red Cross and the Red Crescent are caring for 5,000 refugees just inside the Kuwaiti border in Abdaly. More than 1,000 are Iraqi and the rest are bedoun.

The destination of the people in the Abdaly camp remains uncertain. The tent and metal shack compound is in the demilitarised zone, which makes it off limits to troops. But an unarmed U.S. officer was spotted there Friday, witnesses said.

In a related development, Iraq has denied that its anti-aircraft gunners fired at two U.S. navy reconnaissance planes.

"These reports are untrue both in form and in content," an Information Ministry official told Reuters.

An allied spokeswoman accused Iraq Wednesday of firing 50 bursts of anti-aircraft fire in two separate incidents on Tuesday. Neither of the A-6 intruder fighter-bombers was hit.

Baker embarks on 'do-or-die' peace mission to Middle East

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was to embark Friday on what many believe will be a make-or-break Middle East peace mission that will determine whether or not Arabs and Israelis will sit down around a negotiating table soon.

"This one looks like a do-or-die mission," said one senior Arab diplomat in Washington of Mr. Baker's fourth sortie to the region since the end of the Gulf war.

An Israeli diplomat concurred, saying: "It's very clear that the administration wants this to be the last round and it's significant that the final stop is Israel."

By the time he reaches Israel on Tuesday, Mr. Baker will have

been to Syria, Jordan and Egypt, where he will also have met Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh Sunday.

The Arab diplomat said Mr. Baker might well have a final compromise formula on a peace conference for the Israelis.

"He needs to go to Israel with everything sorted out so that he can say to them: 'This is the package, take it or leave it,'" he said.

Mr. Baker is trying to take advantage of new opportunities he believes were created by the Gulf war to talk Arabs and Israelis into direct talks at a regional peace conference.

But though Israel, Jordan, Palestinians from the occupied territories and Syria all say they

are willing to attend a conference, the problem remains in the details.

Israel does not want the United Nations to be present, whether as sponsor, participant or observer. Syria says the United Nations must have a prominent role.

Israel wants a veto on the Palestinian delegation with residents of Jerusalem excluded. The Arabs say the Palestinians must choose their own representatives.

The Arabs want a conference that can be called back into session from time to time. Israel wants a one-day event to kick off bilateral negotiations.

A senior administration official Thursday called Mr. Baker's return to the Middle East "one last trip" to try to broker conference.

Individual governments free to decide on unfreezing Iraqi assets

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The head of the U.N. Sanctions Committee said Thursday that governments could decide on an individual basis whether to release frozen Iraqi bank assets for purchases of food and humanitarian aid for the war-ravaged nation.

In another development, the head of the U.N. mission to disarm Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction defended his programme as workable. He said governments were being asked to advise the commission about any weapons sites and storage facilities not disclosed by Iraq.

Iraq is seeking the release of \$1 billion in bank assets frozen abroad in order to make specific purchases of food, medicine and other relief supplies. It also seeks the release of food shipments that

were impounded abroad when the U.N. economic embargo was imposed last August.

The Sanctions Committee, however, did not take a formal decision calling for the release of Iraqi assets or the impounded food shipments.

Committee Chairman Peter Hohenfeller, the Austrian ambassador, told reporters after the meeting that he would draft a letter to governments "informing them of appropriate actions they can take under paragraph 20" of ceasefire Resolution 687 of April 3.

The letter, he said, will explain "that the procedure (of releasing assets) is a national measure."

The chairman's letter was expected to be reviewed by members of the committee which con-

sists of the 15 current Security Council members.

The ceasefire resolution says that the economic embargo no longer shall apply to foodstuffs or to supplies filling essential civilian needs. Countries need only notify the committee of such shipments rather than formally seek approval.

By extension, some diplomats said, frozen Iraqi assets could be used to buy food, with proper certification.

No decision was made on Iraq's request that it be permitted to sell \$42 million worth of oil to finance purchases of food and other urgently needed goods.

Mr. Hohenfeller said he was seeking information from Baghdad about what assets it has available at home before deciding on whether to allow oil sales as a last resort.

Education minister's move sparks controversy

AMMAN (R) — The education minister has sparked controversy by banning fathers from watching girls in gym slips compete in school sports.

Minister Abdullah Alkhalil, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, said the ban would spare the girls embarrassment on the schools' annual "Achievement Day," which includes art and cultural events as well as sports, teachers said.

Dr. Alkhalil imposed the ban in a memo dated April 30, saying it "would allow girls total freedom to display their skills without embarrassment" in front of their mothers, they said.

It has provoked rare public opposition from Jordan's biggest daily newspaper and criticism from some teachers.

"We view this move as useless, without educational aims..." (R)

achieves nothing for Islam," wrote Al Rai newspaper.

"We are going to form a delegation from private schools and go to the minister to discuss the impact of his orders on our educational system," one teacher told Reuters.

"If he does not respond, we will go to His Majesty King Hussein, our sole guardian," he added. "We want to move forward with religion and not backward."

Political sources said the King voiced discontent with the move during a visit to the prime minister's office last week.

The measure is the latest in a string of controversial moves by five Muslim Brotherhood ministers who joined the cabinet in a reshuffle in January, the first time they have taken part in government since Jordan was created in



Abdullah Alkhalil

1921.

The reshuffle reflected the Brotherhood's power in parliament, where they form the biggest single bloc.

Private schools ban men from teaching sports to girls and halted co-ed field trips under ministry orders.

The ministry last month distributed new directives ordering schools to uncover western and "Zionist" influence in Jordan and focus on the value of jihad.

Farmers stage protest march; panel to study their water pollution issue

By Ghadeer Taher
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A meeting organised by Jordan Valley farmers to discuss the problem of polluted irrigation water which damaged a major part of this season's crops turned into a protest march against three government ministers and several parliamentarians who failed to attend the meeting.

In apparent response to Thursday's protest march demanding the government take concrete action to address the problem of water pollution, Prime Minister Mudar Badran announced Friday the formation of a specialised committee to study the "phenomenon of the damage sustained by crops in the central Ghor region from all its aspects including soil, water and plant-

tion elements."

The farmers, who staged a sit-in on the main road facing government offices in Muadidi in the valley, said they would meet again Monday to plan further action if the government failed to address the problem. Earlier, some farmers had threatened to take legal action against the government.

The farmers, who hoped to air their grievances to the ministers of water and irrigation, agriculture, industry and trade, the Jordan Valley Authority secretary-general and deputies representing the Jordan Valley constituency, were angered by what they described as "irresponsible behaviour on the part of the government and carelessness on the part of the deputies."

Farmers said they lost up to JD 60 million this season due to lost crops as a result of the use of polluted water for irrigation released by the JVA

from King Talal Dam.

"The question now is whether we should plant next year or not," said Najwa Shasha, a Jordan Valley farmer. "We want to guarantee safe irrigation water for next season," she told the Jordan Times.

The committee announced by Mr. Badran Friday would be headed by JVA Secretary-General Abdul Aziz Wisah and representatives of the ministries of water and irrigation, agriculture, health, the University of Jordan and the Royal Scientific Society.

The farmer's meeting on Thursday was organised by the Central Ghor Graduates Club. It ended 10 minutes after it started after the invited ministers and parliamentarians failed to show up.

Musleh Hamdan Masalha, president of the Central Ghor Graduates Club, asserted the "boycott (of the meeting) by the three ministers, parti-

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U.N. confirms cholera in Iraq, says no epidemic

BAGHDAD (R) — A United Nations aid official confirmed Friday that 52 people had contracted cholera in Iraq but said the cases did not point to an epidemic.

Gianni Murzi, the representative in Iraq of the U.N. Childrens Fund (UNICEF), said health workers were containing the disease with the restoration of power and water supplies to much of the country since the Gulf war.

"It doesn't mean there is an epidemic," Mr. Murzi said of the 52 cases which he said had been confirmed in laboratory tests.

"You must remember that cholera is endemic in this country. It is already here and every year you have cases," he told Reuters.

On Thursday the Health Ministry reported 52 cases of cholera in seven of Iraq's 18 provinces. Most of them were close to borders with Turkey and Iran where Kurdish and Shiite revolts flared after the Gulf war ended in February.

The ministry attributed the cholera outbreak to poor health conditions following damage to Iraq's infrastructure in Gulf war air raids, the Iraqi news agency said.

U.N. reports painted a dramatic picture of threatened illness and epidemics as a result of the allied raids on oil refineries and power stations.

The raids cut off vital fuel for water treatment plants and sewage systems.

U.N. aid officials now say that they are surprised by the speed and extent of Iraq's post-war reconstruction and believe the crisis is less acute than anticipated.

Mr. Murzi said most cities had power and water, including the devastated southern city of Basra. The situation was still bad in the towns of Amara, Samawa and Nassiriya in the south.

Iraq still needed to import large quantities of chlorine and aluminium sulphate to purify water but was unable to do so because of continued U.N. trade sanctions, Mr. Murzi said.

"The needs are greater than we can supply," he added. UNICEF has already imported 70 tonnes of medicine and rehydration fluids, enough to treat about 20,000 cases of cholera and would fly in another 60 tonnes at the weekend as an additional precaution.

"The restoration of electricity and the availability of water have changed the picture dramatically, even if the water is polluted a little," he said.

After the war, Iraq and some

man population.

In recent weeks, government officials have been using a figure of 100,000 for Jewish settlers. The discrepancy could not immediately be explained.

The bureau said Jewish population in the occupied territories expanded 11.7 per cent in 1990, slightly more than the 9.8 per cent growth in 1989.

Ghassan Khatib, a Palestinian economic development expert from the West Bank, said the demographic trends "only add to the complications of solving the Middle East conflict."

He added: "We are not against the principle of immigration, if done in the context of peace. But given the state of hostility... this Soviet Jewish immigration is indeed a negative addition to the political situation."

The report gave the following breakdowns on population for major cities:

— Occupied Jerusalem, 526,000 residents at end of 1990, up 4.4 per cent from a year earlier.

— Tel Aviv, 339,000, up 5.4 per cent.

— Haifa, 245,000, up about nine per cent.

— Beersheva, 122,000, up 7.5 per cent.

It gave no figures for the Palestinian population.

The bureau said the figures were preliminary and a final report would be released in several months.

The report also indicated strong growth in number of Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The government has stepped up its efforts to move Jewish settlers to the occupied territories.

According to the report, 82,000 Jewish settlers lived in the occupied territories at the end of 1990. It gave no figures for the Palestinian population.

while the Kurdish crisis and "maltreatment" of other Iraqi minorities continued, he said.

"There can be no question of any relaxation in sanctions whilst Saddam Hussein's persecution of minorities continues," he said.

Mr. Hurd said it was essential the international community continued to provide protection for Kurds, regardless of Iraqi objections to plans for a U.N. police force.

"What is certain is that the refugees need protection as well as relief," he said.

"They get that protection now from allied troops. In one form or another the international community will have to make sure they continue to receive it."

"Mr. Hurd said Iraq must be compelled to comply with the ceasefire agreement which ended the Gulf war over Kuwait.

Kuwaiti detainees had to be returned and Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons capabilities destroyed.

Arms control in the region was also vital, Mr. Hurd said.

"It was madness which allowed Iraq to amass a tank force twice as large as Britain and France together," he said.

"It would be irresponsible for the world community to let it happen again."

Mr. Hurd said lasting peace depended on resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. He called on both the Arab World and Israel to give some ground on the issue with Arabs recognising Israel's right to exist and Israel surrendering occupied territory.

"A fair solution is crucial if a lasting peace is to be established in the Middle East," Mr. Hurd said.



Basra residents take water from a broken pipeline. Contaminated water is blamed by health experts for cholera cases in Iraq (photo by P.V. Vivekanand)

Iraq facing shortages of key commodities — especially money

SYDNEY (R) — Iraq faces severe shortages of grain and vegetable oils but lack of another key commodity — money — is its most pressing problem, trade analysts say.

Iraq was one of the world's major commodity importers before last August when the United Nations imposed trade sanctions following the invasion of Kuwait. Now, exporters are wary.

"We understand from the Iraqis that they simply haven't got any money at the moment to buy grain," said Charles Stott, the Australian Wheat Board's Middle East marketing manager.

Mr. Stott, who returned to Australia on Wednesday after talks with Iraqi officials in Amman, said Iraq wanted to buy one million tonnes of Australian wheat.

"Basically, they have said that their (grain) stocks are virtually nil at the moment," he said in a radio interview.

"They are very, very desperate indeed for wheat to feed the population," he added.

But Australia, traditionally a big supplier of wheat to Iraq, has said it not only wants assurances that Iraq can pay but it wants an agreement on Iraq's outstanding debts of about \$470 million before trade resumes.

At current prices, a million-tonne deal would be worth about \$110 million.

Other potential food suppliers are also cautious.

The Thai Rice Exporters Association said Thursday it had received a request from Iraq for 200,000 tonnes of rice worth about \$65 million, but an association official said no deal could be concluded until Iraqi assets were unfrozen.

Association Vice President Vorapong Pichayapongsa said Iraq had told the Thais it cannot repay a \$67.5 million debt owed since last October because of economic sanctions.

In Paris, a French Finance Ministry official said: "Trade with Iraq will not be resumed at its normal level as long as the financial problems have not been resolved."

Since 1986, France, a major supplier of arms as well as food to Iraq, has scaled down its exports because of Iraq's inability or unwillingness to pay back its debt.

Iraq's debt to France is estimated by the French treasury at 29 billion francs (\$4.9 billion), including interest. Iraq has a total foreign debt of about \$80 billion.

Under United Nations trade sanctions, Iraq has not been able to sell any oil even to buy food and medicine, although the United Nations has authorised the unfreezing of Iraqi funds to allow it to pay for humanitarian imports.

Iraq has asked the United Nations Sanctions Committee for permission to sell \$1 billion worth of oil to buy essentials. The Security Council wants an agreement on war reparations before oil exports return to normal.

Australian officials say they are confident a big Australian wheat sale would fall into the "humanitarian" category.

Before the Gulf crisis Iraq imported 3.5 million tonnes of wheat a year, mostly from Australia, the United States and Canada. The London-based International Wheat Council says Iraq is now expected to import only 500,000 tonnes of wheat and flour in the 12 months to the end of June.

The Hamburg-based cooking oil industry newsletter Oil World has said Iraq faces an acute shortage of vegetable oil.

It said imports are likely to show a fall to 20,000 tonnes in October/March 1990/91 from 163,000 tonnes a year earlier. However, some oil is being smuggled through Turkey and Iran. In previous years Iraq imported as much as 300,000 tonnes of palm oil.

In mid-April Iraq tried to buy 100,000 tonnes of European wheat for May/June delivery but traders refused to respond due to concern about Iraq's ability to pay.

The United States, formerly a major supplier of wheat, corn, cooking oils, soybeans and rice to Iraq, has said it wants to government of Saddam Hussein removed from power before it resumes ties and it wants all possible sanctions to stay in place until it is gone.

A major irritant between the two countries is the failure of Iraq to repay some \$2 billion in commercial loans guaranteed by the U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) under a programme called GSM 102 when the two nations were on friendly terms.

Several Iraqis said they had learnt from passport authorities that the initially permitted countries will be Jordan, Yemen, Tunisia and Sudan.

Officials said no final decision was taken on such a restriction but they expected further details of the easing of travel restrictions to be announced this week.

However, "under no circumstances would any mass exodus be facilitated," said one official without elaboration. The possible restriction on destinations and the blanket ban on foreign transfers appeared to be designed to ensure that no Iraqi travels outside without strong financial means and gets stuck as refugees in any country.

According to Information Minister Hamid Youssef Hummadi, while all Iraqis can avail of the lifting of the ban on foreign transfers would be allowed. This limits travel to those who have money abroad.

However, many Iraqis, mostly from the retail business community, said they had enough money in foreign currency in cash with them but did not know whether they could carry it with them across the border.

Almost every second merchant and shop in Baghdad freely accepts American dollars at the black market rate of six Iraqi dinars to a dollar. The pre-war rate was four dinars to the dollar (the official rate remains \$3.2 to a dinar).

Many Iraqis are also looking around for foreign currency in cash, but the Iraqi dinar has

paradoxically strengthened against the dollar to reach the six-to-one rate against eight-to-one two weeks ago.

Iraqi black market dealers argue that the dinar has gone up in the Jordanian market — the only place the Iraqi currency is accepted — and this explains the rise in the Iraqi capital itself. But economic analysts believe that the increase is temporary and expect the rate to go down to a level more compatible with the Baghdad rate.

Mr. Hummadi, the information minister, said last week that all Iraqis would be issued a one-year exit permit, but men between 18 and 41 years of age have to produce evidence that they have performed their mandatory service in the armed forces.

The lifting of the travel ban, imposed immediately after the Aug. 2 Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, is widely welcomed by the Iraqis, and many are looking forward to leaving the country and staying away for a short while from the sufferings brought about by the Gulf war which ended in late February.

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Iraq first imposed the travel ban in 1980, shortly after the Iran-Iraq war began. The ban was eased in early 1990, about 16 months after the Iran-Iraq war ended with a ceasefire. The ban was reimposed after the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

The writer has just returned after a week-long stay in Iraq

Soviet immigration boosts Jewish population growth

TEL AVIV (AP) — The influx of Soviet immigrants is giving Israel's Jewish population a widening edge over the Arabs, despite their higher birthrate, according to the government's bureau of statistics.

Israel's Jewish population rose to 3,951,000 at the end of 1990, a 6.3 per cent increase for the year, the bureau said. This compared with growth of 1.6 per cent in 1989.

The Arab community, which includes Muslims and Christians, grew 3.5 per cent last year to 872,000, according to the bureau's report.

The Jewish population growth was the highest since the 1950s, when Jews flooded to Israel from North Africa and Europe after the founding of the Jewish state.

That period and the past year of heavy Soviet immigration were the only times the rate of Jewish population growth exceeded that of the Arabs, government statistics show.

The total population at year's end was 4,823,000, compared with 4,559,000 a year earlier.

The bureau said the figures were preliminary and that a final population could be released later this year.

"The growth, mostly of the

Jewish population, is mainly the result of the increased immigration to Israel — from 25,000 in 1989 to 200,000 in 1990," the report said.

In 1989, 16,000 of the newcomers came from the Soviet Union. Last year, 184,000 were Soviets.

Soviet immigration fell sharply during the Gulf war and has not recovered to pre-war levels. The government initially had predicted 400,000 would immigrate this year, but has since reduced its projection to between 200,000 and 300,000.

Israel has welcomed the Soviet immigrants' boost to Jewish population growth because of fears that the fast-growing Arab minority could become a "destabilising" factor in the Jewish state.

The bureau said the figures were preliminary and a final report would be released in several months.

The report also indicated strong growth in number of Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The government has stepped up its efforts to move Jewish settlers to the occupied territories.

According to the report, 82,000 Jewish settlers lived in the occupied territories at the end of 1990. It gave no figures for the Palestinian population.

while the Kurdish crisis and "maltreatment" of other Iraqi minorities continued, he said.

"There can be no question of any relaxation in sanctions whilst Saddam Hussein's persecution of minorities continues," he said.

Mr. Hurd said it was essential the international community continued to provide protection for Kurds, regardless of Iraqi objections to plans for a U.N. police force.

"What is certain is that the refugees need protection as well as relief," he said.

"They get that protection now from allied troops. In one form or another the international community will have to make sure they continue to receive it."

"Mr. Hurd said Iraq must be compelled to comply with the ceasefire agreement which ended the Gulf war over Kuwait.

Kuwaiti detainees had to be returned and Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons capabilities destroyed.

Arms control in the region was also vital, Mr. Hurd said.

"It was madness which allowed Iraq to amass a tank force twice as large as Britain and France together," he said.

"It would be irresponsible for the world community to let it happen again."

Mr. Hurd said lasting peace depended on resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. He called on both the Arab World and Israel to give some ground on the issue with Arabs recognising Israel's right to exist and Israel surrendering occupied territory.

"A fair solution is crucial if a lasting peace is to be established in the Middle East," Mr. Hurd said.

Arab disarray to curtail conference

CAIRO (AP) — Political disarray resulting from the Gulf war will curtail drastically a conference of Arab foreign ministers scheduled for next week, Egyptian and Arab League officials say.

It will be the second time in less than two months that a league meeting has been stymied by fallout from Iraq's takeover of Kuwait last August and liberation of the emirate seven months later by a U.S.-led military coalition.

The meeting's agenda calls for two or three days of political discussions after a closed-door session next Wednesday. Officials said it is now expected to break up after the secret session.

And they said its only business will be the election of a new secretary-general, virtually certain to be Esmat Abdul Meguid, Egypt's foreign minister.

The only candidate, Mr. Abdul Meguid is assured overwhelming support from the league's 21 members. The charter requires a two-thirds majority or 14 members for election. At least 18

members have said they will endorse the Egyptian.

"The agenda includes important problems, but resolving them at the coming meeting of the Arab League council will not be possible, given the bitterness that still prevails," said Mahmoud Ahul Nasr, Egypt's permanent delegate.

"The meeting will not be useful if these questions are discussed. Such problems can be tackled later in diplomatic exchanges."

According to a copy of the agenda obtained by the Associated Press, listed topics include the Arab-Israeli conflict, the focus of current U.S. peacemaking efforts; immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, and the Palestinian uprising.

The agenda includes no Gulf war-related items. But league officials said Iraq planned to raise "explosive issues" such as foreign interference in the Arab World.

Iraq's occupation of Kuwait split the Arabs. Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria led Arab opposi-

tion to the conquest and joined the anti-Iraq alliance. Jordan, Yemen, Sudan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and some North African countries like Mauritania and Algeria displayed sympathy.

Osama Al Baz, top political aide to President Hosni Mubarak, discussed next week's conference on Wednesday with the league's acting secretary-general, Assad Al Assad of Lebanon.

League officials said Mr. Baz and Mr. Assad agreed that it would do well to refrain from political debates, thus avoiding possible aggravation of existing divisions.

They said the two men also agreed that a motion for adjournment be presented immediately after the secretary-general's election.

The council of the 46-year-old league convened in Cairo on March 30 for a routine low-level session. The meeting was significant only because all members attended for the first time since the Kuwait invasion.

Iraqis prepare to travel, but confront currency restriction

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AFFLUENT IRAQIS are preparing themselves to travel outside the country from May 15, when a government ban on exit permits will be lifted. But the main problem confronting many is a government decree that they would not be allowed to transfer foreign currency abroad.

In addition, all indications are that the destinations will be restricted to a few Arab countries in the initial phase.

Several Iraqis said they had learnt from passport authorities that the initially permitted countries will be Jordan, Yemen, Tunisia and Sudan.

Officials said no final decision was taken on such a restriction but they expected further details of the easing of travel restrictions to be announced this week.

However, "under no circumstances would any mass exodus be facilitated," said one official without elaboration. The possible restriction on destinations and the blanket ban on foreign transfers appeared to be designed to ensure that no Iraqi travels outside without strong financial means and gets stuck as refugees in any country.

According to Information Minister Hamid Youssef Hummadi, while all Iraqis can avail of the lifting of the ban on foreign transfers would be allowed. This limits travel to those who have money abroad.

However, many Iraqis, mostly from the retail business community, said they had enough money in foreign currency in cash with them but did not know whether they could carry it with them across the border.

Almost every second merchant and shop in Baghdad freely accepts American dollars at the black market rate of six Iraqi dinars to a dollar. The pre-war rate was four dinars to the dollar (the official rate remains \$3.2 to a dinar).

Many Iraqis are also looking around for foreign currency in cash, but the Iraqi dinar has

paradoxically strengthened against the dollar to reach the six-to-one rate against eight-to-one two weeks ago.

Iraqi black market dealers argue that the dinar has gone up in the Jordanian market — the only place the Iraqi currency is accepted — and this explains the rise in the Iraqi capital itself. But economic analysts believe that the increase is temporary and expect the rate to go down to a level more compatible with the Baghdad rate.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Protesters clash with Australian police

SYDNEY (R) — About 200 angry protesters, including schoolgirls and mothers cradling babies, scuffled with Australian police as Turkish President Turgut Ozal arrived at a state reception in Sydney Friday. Chanting "Ozal murderer," "Justice for Cyprus," the crowd surged forward as Mr. Ozal's car arrived at the New South Wales state office block. As the crowd pushed through a thin plastic ribbon barrier scuffles broke out with police and some of Mr. Ozal's bodyguards. Police jabbed some protesters with batons and wrestled others to the ground. No arrests were made and no one was injured. Police called for reinforcements and erected wooden barriers to prevent clashes when Mr. Ozal left the reception an hour later. A spokesman for the protesters, members of Australia's Armenian and Kurdish communities, told Reuters the demonstrators wanted Turkey to remove troops from Cyprus and for the Turkish government to acknowledge human rights abuses against Armenians.

Lebanese teachers end strike

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's 70,000 schoolteachers ended a four-day strike Friday after the government bowed to their demands for better pay to match soaring inflation. The teacher's union said in a statement it decided to call off the strike, which affected 800,000 students, after Education Minister Butros Harb pledged to meet their demands. The government has issued a decree raising teachers' pay but the rise needs parliament's approval. The minimum monthly wage for a schoolteacher is currently 52,000 pounds (\$52). Lebanon's economy has been hit hard by 16 years of civil war. The inflation rate last year was 100 per cent.

Yugoslavia to renew ties with Israel

BELGRADE (AP) — Yugoslavia and Israel will soon renew diplomatic ties which were severed almost 24 years ago, a Yugoslav Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday. Stjepan Kerim said "the process of renewal of diplomatic ties with Israel is in the final phase." Yugoslavia, along with most of Eastern Europe's Communist countries, broke off ties with Israel following the 1967 Middle East war. East Europeans have now renewed relations with Israel.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary
18:30 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Good Morning Miss Bliss
21:00 Encounter
21:30 News in English
22:30 Italian feature film: "The Most Beautiful Woman"

PRAYER TIMES

04:09 Fajr
05:37 (Saurin) Duha
12:35 Dhahr
16:12 'Asr
19:25 Maghreb
20:54 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasol Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 483326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 615917, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Another rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be southerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 19 / 32
Aqaba 24 / 36
Djersa 16 / 34
Jordan Valley 22 / 37

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 21 per cent, Aqaba 15 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Issam Hawandeh 624830
Dr. Youssef Samour 615648
Dr. Fakhri Tayeh 883880
Dr. Khalidoun Kloub 826519
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778334
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairoudh pharmacy 623672
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644943
Shmiesani pharmacy 637660

IBRD:
Dr. Ahmed Bishawi (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (278225)

ZARQA:
Dr. Raed Atallah (—)
Khalil's pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 812228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 894390
Public Security Department 830521
Hotel Complaints 659800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Complaints 667279
Telephone Information 121
(Directory assistance) 010230
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 613613/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6

Home News

Industrialists warned to abide by specifications regarding waste water

AMMAN (Petra) — Industry and Trade Minister Ziad Fariz has warned Jordanian industries which fail to adhere to the specifications of waste water dumped in Zarqa River, valleys or canals.

The minister said that the residues and waste dumped by factories in streams and valleys posed a threat to human life and to plants, and contributed to environmental pollution.

At a meeting with owners and directors of various Jordanian factories located near Zarqa River, Mr. Fariz said that the prime minister directed special attention to this subject and informed them that the government was serious in its endeavours to ensure the safety of water in King Talal Dam, which receives its water from Zarqa River, and to prevent water contamination by

all means. The minister noted that his ministry would monitor carefully the factories' adherence to the specifications of waste water, which mentioned the kind of water that can be dumped in the river.

The minister fixed the end of May as a deadline for all industries and factories to rectify their situation and refused to extend any longer this deadline, calling on those who requested such an extension to close down their factories until their situation was rectified.

He warned violators that their factories would be closed down if they failed to abide by the deadline, and pledged the ministry's technical support to enable them rectify their situations within the space of time allotted.

Official calls for drafting an international convention on environment protection

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Council of Science and Technology's Secretary General Abdullah Touqan Friday called for drafting a U.N.-sponsored international convention on the protection of environment.

"Such a convention should include specific and clear provisions with a binding power," Mr. Touqan said.

He called on the world community to rally behind such a convention and to show the same firmness which the U.S. led coalition showed against Iraq during the Gulf crisis in working towards such a convention.

He said that it was not easy for world leaders or powers to safeguard their own interests by themselves. He emphasised that the earth protection should serve as a central cause in any new world order.

Mr. Touqan said the formation of an international data bank on environment was the first step towards drafting such a convention which would prevent the use of environment as a tool of war. Such a bank, if established, can serve as an international centre for managing environmental crises and proposing remedial measures for any potential harm to the environment," he said.

Arab Red Crescent Societies to hold meeting in Damascus

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Iraqi Red Crescent Society arrived in Amman Thursday on its way to Damascus to participate in the meetings of the Executive Committee of the Arab Red Crescent Societies General Secretariat.

Head of the Iraqi Society's International Affairs Department Amid Khaled Abdul Hamid said his society's participation in the meetings stems from its keenness to enhance the activities of the Red Crescent in the Arab World and safeguard Arab unity.

In another development, President of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society Ibrahim Al Nouri said

Iraq had received a new shipment of medical and food aid, donated by Arab and foreign humanitarian organisations.

He said the relief aid, which arrived in Iraq via Amman, was donated by the Red Crescent societies of Jordan and Algeria, the Catholic churches, the European Community (EC), the International Society for the Prevention of Nuclear War in Germany and the Japanese International Friendship Delegation.

Dr. Nouri said the aid included flour, rice, oil, dried milk, mineral water, water filters, electric generators, beds and blankets.

GUVS, Libyan delegation hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — President and members of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Executive Council met Friday with a Libyan delegation currently on a visit to Jordan.

The council's President Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib briefed the delegation on the history of the voluntary movement in Jordan and projects carried out by GUVS.

Kingdom's Mufti Sheikh Izzeddine Al Tamimi, who is also chairman of a charity society at GUVS, briefed the delegation on GUVS's aid to students at Jordanian universities.

Head of the Libyan delegation, Dr. Mustafa Al Za'idi, expressed his satisfaction with the visit in Jordan and lauded the role of the voluntary movement in the Kingdom.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Friday fires the starting shot for the charity march whose

proceeds will benefit Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) (photo by Youssef Al Allan)

RSS to make use of skills, know-how of expatriates

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) is currently trying to revive and promote a project, engineered in 1988, aimed at attracting Jordanian expatriates with special skills in various fields to come and work in Jordan for short periods as consultants in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

An official at the RSS said that the project, known as Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) entitled involving these expatriates in various Jordanian institutions, with the UNDP meeting travel cost and living expenses. The visit's period varies between one week to three months, according to the official.

The RCC engineered the programme in an effort to encourage qualified expatriates to volunteer their services in order to secure a modest but significant transfer of know-how to Jordan, he said.

The TOKTEN scheme covers persons of Jordanian origin, working abroad, irrespective of whether they have retained their Jordanian nationality or adopted a new one, according to the official who added that the RSS had been sending out messages to attract these skilled expatriates.

Those we are looking for are usually professionals with a wide variety of skills needed in Jordan for economic, technological and social development, in accordance with the priorities of the national development plans, the official said.

He said that the visiting expert would transmit knowledge and practical know-how to recipient institutions through training seminars or person to person consultations by joint research projects and by giving proposals on policy issues and other advisory services.

These skilled expatriates have acquired affinity that would en-

able them to transfer and adapt a skill or technology acquired abroad more effectively, due to the ease of communication, than could an industrialised country expert brought up in a different environment," he said.

The RSS, he noted, has reached agreement with the UNDP to encourage consultants to volunteer their services and the know-how. This can become a continuous process because experts can maintain contacts with Jordan's institutions while they continue to live and work abroad, the official pointed out.

He said that the project offered migrating professionals who would like to help their country of origin a point of entry into its professional and social life and at the same time it promotes institutional linkages and provides the recipient country with a permanent pool of knowledge upon which to draw at relatively low cost.

1990 crime figures increase by 8.7% over those of 1989

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 21,885 crimes were committed in Jordan in 1990, registering an 8.7 per cent increase over the 1989 figures, with murders, robberies and immoral acts growing conspicuously.

The figures were released by the Public Security Department (PSD) which said that although the crimes increased, the Jordanian society is not faced with the danger of organised crime.

PSD Director Maj. Gen. Fadel Ali Fubaid stressed that the discovery of the crimes and criminals in Jordan was rated as one of the highest to the world thanks to the skill of those in charge of investigation and the sound procedures they follow.

The quick discovery of the crimes and the criminals, said Maj. Gen. Fubaid, is bound to help reduce the rate of crimes in the country in the long run.

He however noted that the rise in the number of all kinds of crimes necessitates close cooperation between the society and police services since "it is a national duty to combat crime."

Brigadier Abdul Karim Tarawneh, director of the PSD's Criminal Investigations Department, said that the increase in the volume of crimes reflected the

socio-economic circumstances that affected Jordan and the population growth in the past year.

"Robberies in Jordan last year rose by 29.3 per cent over the previous year. Embezzlement cases increased by 14.2 per cent and murders by 35 per cent," Brig. Tarawneh pointed out.

"The total number of murders committed in the Kingdom during 1990 were 84, of which only 11 remain unsolved, but the number of murders registered an increase of 22 over those committed in 1989," Brig. Tarawneh said.

He said that immoral crimes were 790, registering a drop of 262 compared with those of 1989.

Referring to people involved in last year crimes, Brig. Tarawneh said that non-Jordanians accounted for 17.9 per cent of the total number of criminals.

"Clinging on to obsolete social traditions like firing during festivities has cost the country 27 dead and 211 others injured. Brig. Tarawneh noted. He said that there were 312 firing incidents during festivities, mainly weddings, increasing by 88 over those of 1989.

According to Brig. Tarawneh, there were 47 suicide cases in

1990, almost as many as during the previous year, but that the suicide attempts, which stood at 482, registered an increase of 63 per cent.

Brig. Tarawneh said that robberies and thefts proved to be on the increase all the time and he attributed them mainly to unemployment, low standard of living and the prevailing economic conditions.

Brig. Tarawneh cited a report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on socio-economic conditions in Jordan which stated that nearly 33 per cent of the population were living under the poverty line, and said that such conditions constituted a rich ground for crime.

The two PSD officers released the figures to the Higher National Committee on Combating Crime whose members reviewed various techniques to deal with the situation and the role which the school, the mosque and the family can play in curtailing crimes in the Kingdom.

The meeting announced the formation of a special sub-committee to work out a policy, to be conducted through the media, in order to deal with the questions of rising crimes in Jordan.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Lawzi, Arabiyat receive envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi received at the Parliament Thursday the newly appointed North Korean ambassador to Jordan and discussed with him the results of the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) meeting held in North Korea recently as well as bilateral relations. Mr. Lawzi also received the Finnish ambassador to Jordan on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty and discussed with him scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Finland, particularly in parliamentary fields. The North Korean and the Finnish ambassadors were also received by Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat. Dr. Arabiyat discussed with the ambassadors the role their countries could play to resolve the Middle East problem.

JEA discusses cooperation with Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) Ismail Brewish and members of the association board met Thursday with Secretary General of the Arab Engineers Union Abdul Sattar Al Rawi and Iraqi Engineers Association President Dr. Hareth Al Khassali. Both sides discussed cooperation ties between the JEA on the one hand and the Arab Union and the Iraqi association on the other. Dr. Khassali expressed hope that cooperation between the Jordanian and the Iraqi association be enhanced. He also lauded efforts exerted by the

Jordanian engineers to help Iraq in its ordeal. Mr. Rawi and Mr. Khassali arrived in Amman from Rabat, Morocco, Wednesday on their way home after taking part in the meetings of the Higher Council of the Arab Engineers Union convened recently.

Arabiyat to meet journalists

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat will Saturday meet with several Jordanian journalists to prepare a programme for them to have periodical meetings with him to discuss issues of concern to the Kingdom.

Doctor donates prize money to Iraq

GENEVA (Petra) — A Jordanian doctor Friday announced that he was donating the value of an international prize awarded to him by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to the children of Iraq. Dr. Mohammad Rida Tawfiq, head of the Anti-Malaria Department at the Health Ministry, was named to have this year's award in appreciation of his efforts and research in the area of fighting malaria. At an award-reception ceremony, held here in the presence of medical delegations representing 160 countries, Dr. Tawfiq said that the children of Iraq, who are being besieged by the world, need the value of the award more than him, and therefore he decided to donate it to buy milk for them.

MAP walk proceeds to benefit Palestinians

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Friday gave the starting signal heralding the beginning of the 16 kilometre walk, organised by the Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) to raise funds for Palestinians living under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Taking part in the MAP march, which is organised for the second year running, were Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, Princess Majda Raad, a number of Jordanian officials and members of the diplomatic corps in Amman.

Also taking part in the march was Dr. Pauline Cutting, renowned for her work at Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camp in Lebanon.

About 4,500 people participated in the walk which began at the Amra Hotel and followed a long and winding road to Al Rajah village in Wadi Sir. The participants were met with what was called Khaimet Baladna, a tent with refreshments and food overlooking a beautiful scenery by the Dead Sea.

"We were aiming at collecting about JD 200,000 from the march," Nadia Alami, director of MAP-Jordan said. "But it is too soon to tell how much we collected."

Although MAP was facing some difficulties shortly after the Gulf war (around 300,000 Palestinians from Kuwait, who used to finance Palestinian institutions, like hospitals and schools, lost their livelihood) "MAP-London is now involving itself in numer-

ous activities which will provide for medical equipment, foreign volunteer workers and money for paying the Palestinians who work in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as Lebanon," said Dr. Cutting, who wrote a book "Children of the Siege" — an account of the Palestinian life in the refugee camp of Bourj Al Barajneh in Beirut.

While demand for financial support increased after the war, "if anything support for MAP-London increased also," Dr. Cutting, 39, told the Jordan Times.

"Yes, there were problems" because of the misinformation about the Palestinians, "but there is still a lot of support from the British public," she stated.

MAP-London's turnover this year was one million English pounds.

Dr. Cutting, who is in Jordan for the third time, expressed surprise at the rapidity with which MAP-Jordan expanded. "When I first came here, it (MAP) did not really exist."

During her 10-day visit in the country, Dr. Cutting will talk to medical experts and associations about MAP's work in Jordan and the occupied territories.

"People in the Gaza Strip were affected by the war badly," Dr. Cutting said. According to an orthopedic surgeon working there, life had been made much more difficult. "Many people lost their jobs, many lost their livelihood, many were under continuous curfews. There is real poverty now," Dr. Cutting explained.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has had to double their food rations because people cannot get by

even to eat, the doctor added. This is one of the reasons MAP is actively working to collect funds. "We recently opened an orthopedic centre in Al Ahli Hospital in the Gaza Strip. We are also giving training courses with British intensive care specialists at the hospital," Dr. Cutting said.

The need is greater now to expand aid in the camps in Lebanon and the West Bank and Gaza, according to Dr. Cutting. "Now the people are showing signs of malnutrition," she said. Although Gaza is a fertile area and the residents generally eat well, economic pressure is taking its toll on them, she added. "Many are partially disabled, many thousands are injured and as time goes by they are more and more in need."

Asked what the priority was in terms of aid, she said MAP tried to respond to the needs of what is asked for. "We rely on the information we get. There is need for health care, hospital care and physiotherapists, but really it depends from one area to another," Dr. Cutting added.

Dr. Cutting, who was working in Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, England, before she volunteered to work in the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut in 1986, says: "My memories — although it was during the camp wars of Sabra and Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh and we suffered very much with the Palestinians — my memories are pleasant. The people are generous, strong and stoical."

At the end of the march, Prince Hassan handed over prizes to heads of participating teams, and received himself a cup from MAP in appreciation of his support for the society's activities.



ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF HOLDS TALKS WITH U.S. WAR COLLEGE DELEGATION: Army Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb met at his office with a visiting delegation representing the U.S. War College and discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict, Jordan's position and

efforts to seek a lasting settlement. The army chief of staff and senior armed forces officers later presented to the visitors a briefing on Jordan's endeavours to develop its armed forces, training programmes and the drive to acquire modern technology.

Brooke Hospital heads fly in

AMMAN (J.T.) — Flying to Amman Saturday after a visit to Egypt is Richard Seagrath, organising secretary of the Brooke Hospital for Animals.

Mr. Seagrath has been visiting the Brooke Hospital in Cairo and its three equine clinics in Alexandria, Luxor and Aswan, and is coming to Jordan accompanied by Brigadier Sami Hassan, the Brooke's director in Cairo, to attend the fourth annual competition for tourist horses at the Brooke Hospital's Princess Alia Clinic in Petra.

This visit is particularly significant in that the Brooke Hospital has been bearing the cost of feed for all 355 horses shortly after the start of the Gulf crisis, through the war, and is continuing to do so until the end of June when it is hoped that the number of tourists visiting Petra will keep increasing.

When tourism came to a halt, the horse-owners could not afford to feed their horses, and seemed to have little alternative but to dispose of them.

The Brooke Hospital's gener-

osity prevented such a tragedy, and now that tourists are gradually returning they will not be denied unique ride down the spectacular Siq.

The horses have benefitted from their long rest and are all looking very well, which means that their competition Judge Sunday, Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Hussein, (who is the Brooke Hospital's patron), may have a difficult task choosing the winner from the best 45 horses which have already been chosen.

Judging is on condition and turnout of the horses, the condition, cleanliness and safety of the saddlery, (most important for the

benefit of tourists), and the condition of horses' feet. This is important too as the tracks and Siq are very stony. First is a saddle donated by Mrs. Barbara Colville from England, and there are money prizes up to fifteenth place. All contestants receive a smart resette.

The Ministry of Tourism expressed its gratitude to the Brooke Hospital and Mr. Seagrath for keeping the horses in good shape through the past difficult months so that they are ready for the tourists again. Mr. Nasri Attalah, the Ministry of Tourism secretary general will be present at the competition.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

- ☆ Art exhibition by Nazir Ismail at the French Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Exhibition of etchings, lithographs and monographs, by Ahmad Nawash and Yasser Duweik at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. — 8 p.m.)

FILM

- ☆ Feature film entitled "The Shooting Party" at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Long-awaited signal

SOVIET FOREIGN Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh's statement to the press Thursday that Moscow may reconsider its present policy on Jewish immigration to Israel is the most potent signal yet from the Soviet Union that it means business in pursuing its role in the Middle East. When questioned about the impact of massive Jewish immigration on the quest for peace in the Middle East, Bessmertnykh acknowledged that Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel is of deep concern to the Arab side and that his government would not exclude the possibility of reconsidering the continuation of the emigres' flow, especially in view of Israel's persistent settlement policy in the occupied territories. Of course the Arab World has been sounding the alarm about Jewish immigration for a long time but with little avail. For Moscow to come out in the open now in support of the Arab concern is indeed a step forward. The Soviet government's stance on the conditions for pursuing peace between the Arabs and Israel is also timely in view of the projected resumption of diplomatic relations between Tel Aviv and Moscow. Few weeks ago the European Community (EC) countries also came out very strongly against Israel's continued colonisation of Arab territories, but that European posture remained rhetorical and lacking teeth. Now the Soviet Union appears to link its rejection of Israel's usurpation of Arab lands with the continued flow of Soviet Jewish immigration. This is the kind of language that Tel Aviv may understand and heed. Washington should now join forces with Moscow on this matter by translating its pious declaration that Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are an obstacle to peace. Then and only then, the superpowers would set the stage for a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The real significance of Bessmertnykh's message to Israel lies in the fact that it is the first signal of its kind transmitted to the Jewish state that the international community may be seriously entertaining the application of sanctions against Israel for its defiance of international will. Former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze alluded to the concept of sanctions in the search for peace in the Middle East by suggesting that sanctions be applied against any state in the Middle East that obstructs the march for peace in the region. The signs of a Soviet linkage of its emigration policy to Israel's position on the terms and conditions for peace in the area are certainly a first attempt at taking Israel to task for flouting international norms and standards. Knowingly only too well the importance and urgency of continued Jewish immigration, Israel may not take this latest Soviet signal lightly. It remains to be seen how the U.S. would react to this Soviet threat, especially in light of Moscow's need for Washington's support for its perestroika and glasnost policies. Should President George Bush aim to frustrate the Soviet efforts to curtail the colonisation of Arab territories, then the entire peace initiative would come to naught. Tel Aviv must realise that it cannot have its cake and eat it. It either wants peace or it seeks continued belligerency in the area. If the international community can join the new Soviet approaches, then the chances for peace in the Middle East would really advance.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COINCIDING with the Soviet foreign minister's visit to Jordan Al Rai's Arabic daily said that Moscow's efforts are needed at the moment to help achieve a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The involvement of the Soviet Union, France and Britain in matters related to the solution of the Middle East problems is a clear sign on the part of the United States that it wants to give the ongoing efforts an international character as it did with regard to the Gulf crisis, the paper noted. The United States created a military alliance that launched an aggression on Iraq to force it to pull out from Kuwait on the one hand, and to strike at Iraq's rising military might on the other, said the paper. Following the war, Washington seemed to be the sole authority in the international arena, but it preferred to involve the Europeans in the diplomatic alliance to deal with the Arab-Israeli question, the paper noted. It said that if Washington is indeed intent on settling the issue, it ought to see to it that U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 are implemented, and that the Israelis succumb to the will of the international community. If this international diplomatic alliance is to achieve success in its endeavour, said the paper, Washington has to prove to the world that it is serious and sincere in its efforts to solve the Palestine problem which lies at the heart of the whole issue.

A columnist in Al Rai's daily criticises the media, government departments and employers alike in their dealings with questions related to the employment of local workers who should be given priority over non-Jordanians. Fakhr Kassar says that employers tend to employ non-Jordanians because they accept less wages; and by doing so they tend to complicate the unemployment issue in the country. A Jordanian worker is blamed by the employers, the government and the media for not accepting the kinds of jobs offered to him to replace a non-Jordanian worker but this is a hostile campaign directed at Jordanian job seekers blaming them for the unemployment problem, the writer notes. He says that one has to remember that the cost of living is very high and workers should be given decent wages enough for their transport and for cost of living. If the employers do not wish to pay this sum and prefer to employ non-Jordanians for less wages then they deal with humans exactly as they do with commodities, and are not offering any service to solve the unemployment problem in the country, says Kassar. The writer expresses the view that the unemployment problem exists not because Jordanians refuse to work but due to serious faults in the Jordanian economic structure and because the employers do not have a sense of national belonging. He says that work is linked to dignity, and one cannot be separated from the other.

Democracy, security and prosperity: Ingredients for Middle East growth, stability

The following address by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan entitled: "Democracy, security, prosperity: A regional perspective on the Middle East," was delivered on the Prince's behalf by Jordan's ambassador to the Benelux countries Talal Sataan Al Hassan at the Society of International Development (SID), 20th World Conference: "One World or Several: Towards a Strategy for Growth, Sustainability and Solidarity in an Interdependent World", held in Amsterdam between May 6 and 9, 1991.

Honoured participants,
Dear Friends,

IN reviewing the development literature since Bretton Woods, it seems as if the pendulum has gone through a full swing. Starting with capital formation, then moving on to human resources, export led growth, basic human needs, dependency, the New International Economic Order, moral versus material development, and back to economic growth though with such provisos as sustainability and solidarity.

However, it is important to note that the advocated new interdisciplinary approach, and the focus on the human dimension and environment, have helped to emphasise two factors. Firstly, the increasing interdependence of the world; and secondly, the fact that socio-political development must parallel economic progress if the latter is to be sustainable. This is as true for individual nations as for regions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

"Democracy, security, prosperity" is a trinity that is extremely relevant to the South. The regional perspective that I intend to present to you today is of course related to my own part of the world — the Middle East. But I believe that the mode of thought and the approach have implications for other developing regions.

Six months ago, in November 1990, the leaders of 34 nations finally laid the cold war to rest and signed the "Charter of Paris for a New Europe" at the summit of the conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Some may question whether the cold war was in fact laid to rest, and may concede just a mellowing in relations between East and West. But of more relevance is the remarks of the Secretary General of the United Nations at the Paris Summit about the indivisibility of peace and justice. Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar stressed the reality of linkages

between Europe and other regions of the globe where current conflicts "have their origin in actions and circumstances going back to the colonial era." He added that "the North will continue to be seated on a base of clay as long as the South does not enjoy a minimum of well-being." These words could hardly ring more true than in the case of the Middle East.

Distinguished Guests,

Development, just like security, has a limited chance of success if it is imposed from above. A symbiosis is required between growth and development on the one hand, and people, environment and culture on the other. New thinking is desperately needed in relation to the challenges facing many parts of the developing world.

Perhaps a first bold step towards new thinking in my region is the need to "rethink security." The question of war and peace are inseparable from the questions of demography, environment and ideology. Extensive linkages exist between security, or rather insecurity, and the degradation of people, environment and cultural identity. The abuse of human and political rights, ecocide and the loss of cultural identity are all too readily apparent in the Middle East. A broadly defined security concept, means tackling the root causes of conflict.

In rethinking the meaning of security, a number of postulates have to be questioned and re-examined. My aim here is not to theorise, but rather to identify a way for breaking out from the previous well-trodden paths or cul-de-sacs. Not only the military, but also the political and economic route maps must be carefully surveyed to identify an appropriate new path through the existing regional maze.

Many of the road-blocks on our journey are trans-national in their essence. Emphasising the political and economic dimensions of

security can help provide a remedial expansion of the tools available to deal with those trans-national issues or road blocks. Ladies and Gentlemen,

A sense of powerlessness to avert or solve crises is clearly visible in many societies in both South and North. However, the extreme extent that this has reached in many developing regions of the world, including my own, has led to what might be termed as the political economy of despair.

Politically, authoritarian regimes and the neglect of festering problems have contributed to the emergence of what has been termed as the "politics of despair." Economically, demographic trends and the widening gap between the "haves" and the "have nots," have sparked off the "economics of despair." In certain cases, despair has reached a point that can be depicted as "no world," rather than the "one world or several" mentioned in the title of this conference. This is particularly true for many Palestinians and Lebanese.

Democratisation, freedom of expression, human rights and the accountability of rulers provide a route towards an alternative political economy of peace and progress.

Dear Friends,

A number of proposals have been made for a Helsinki-type approach for the Middle East. My purpose here is not to go into their details, but only to observe that all these proposals for a CSCME (Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Middle East) emphasise that their aim is neither to contradict particular schemes for regional security nor to divert attention from solving long-standing conflicts. They rather represent an attempt to provide a framework and an environment conducive to diplomatic or political initiatives for dealing with specific problems. The Jordanian approach for a CSCME is based on a regional matrix that highlights the interaction between the three dimensions of security (military, political, economic) on the one hand, and people, resources, environment and culture/ideology on the other.

This Jordanian regional approach clearly shows that a

number of common problems confront regional adversaries in the Middle East. Energy, arms and external debts are challenges facing not only a country such as Jordan, but others like Turkey, Egypt and Israel. This energy/arms/debt triangle also links the Middle East to the 34 states of Helsinki. This group of states is the main consumer of Middle East energy, its main supplier of armaments and its major creditor (with few exceptions such as China, Japan and Brazil).

The moral weight of the Helsinki process should be brought to bear on its neighbours in the Middle East. Such paradoxical side effects as the transfer of armaments from Europe to many parts of the developing world in the wake of CFE treaty (Conventional Forces in Europe) must be effectively tackled.

As far as energy is concerned, the purpose is not to subjectively refer to "cheap oil" or "expensive oil." Rather it is to evolve an alternative to the highly politicised confrontation between sellers and buyers. "Energy" is conspicuously absent from the 1992 objectives of Europe. The Charter of Paris has implicitly recognised this serious gap in stating "we welcome, in particular, practical steps to create optimal conditions for the economic and rational development of energy resources, with due regard for environmental consideration."

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Proposals have recently been made by Brussels for a "European Energy Charter." They involve the 34 states of the Paris Charter as well as the European Community as such. According to these proposals, "improving security of energy supplies, protecting the environment and ensuring optimum management and efficient use of Europe's energy resources" are common objectives achieved without applying the same principles to the Middle East? Security, environment and efficiency are also key elements in relation to energy in our region. There is no dichotomy in this regard between North and South. By emphasising the military dimension in the search for security, oil can become a destabilising factor rather than a regional asset in the Middle East.

Concerning debt, it is worth noting that all the non-oil produc-

ing countries in the Middle East suffer from major external debt problems. These problems are linked in no small way to the issue of armaments. Unlike Eastern Europe, so far no concept of regional economic stabilisation has emerged for the Middle East. Debt-ridden countries depend on handouts and subsidies coupled with IMF structural adjustment and austerity programmes. This approach has increased tensions between the haves and have-nots in the region and has provided a fertile socio-economic environment for radicalism. A cornerstone of a new debt strategy is arms control. The successful implementation of arms control and arms reduction will release substantial funds that were previously wasted on armaments. Countries abiding by such a process will qualify for the systematic and measured reduction of existing debts (most of which were accumulated through arms purchases in the first place). A cursory look at most indebted nations in the Middle East reveals that, most, if not all, would no longer need continuous subsidies if the existing debt overhang is removed (this includes Turkey, Israel and Iraq). The key issue however is not the write-off of debts in a vacuum. It should be part of an arms control and reduction package coupled with appropriate economic adjustment policies (stabilisations and structural adjustment).

To assist in this process, a regional debt-sinking fund can be set up by the oil rich countries in the area to share the burden in the debt reduction process. The application of the arms control process on the oil countries themselves will help release significant resources from their defence budgets.

The second pillar of the proposed debt reduction strategy is a regional socio-economic package. A regional development fund should be established to provide investment capital for those countries implementing stabilisation and adjustment programmes. National and regional infrastructural programmes should be integrated to the extent possible. Water, energy, transport and telecommunications regional sectoral plans should be evolved. These can become the leading sectors in the economic revitalisation of the post-war Middle East. They can be viewed as the "steel

and coal" of a new Middle East community including the non-Arab states of the region. A study by the World Bank has shown that in the past, only five per cent of the financial surplus of the oil rich countries was invested in the region. There is a need to evolve a new investment criteria and a new basis for calculating rates of return, to help channel part of the remaining ninety five per cent into the region.

To avoid disaster for itself and the world, the Middle East urgently needs new approaches to promote interdependence, both intra and inter-regionally. (A utilitarian "worked-out rights" approach has to replace the ethical "intrinsic rights" approach before a meaningful cooperative strategy can emerge). What is needed is to institutionalise a new regional development thinking based on mutual gains and interests (both economic and social). Appropriate cost-benefit criteria at the regional level have to be evolved and applied to sectoral projects such as water, energy and transportation. Welfare economics has extensive tools relating to social cost-benefit analysis that can be extended to an intra-regional context. To use economic jargon, what is needed is to identify "externalities" (i.e. external socio-economic benefits to the region from particular investments) and to "internalise" their effects (by transforming the incidental benefit into a product for which a price is charged). This can apply to other sectors like education and manpower. A number of multilateral agencies (such as the World Bank) can easily provide the technical expertise needed to evolve new criteria for the region. Creative investment plans can, on the basis of such a new investment criteria, transform the existing regional zero-sum game into a scenario of mutual gains.

It is in this way that new thinking relating to the energy/arms/debt and development triangle can stimulate a process for security and cooperation (CSCME) in the Middle East in this delicate and fragile post-Gulf war phase.

In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to say that democracy/security/prosperity provide the most viable strategy for growth, sustainability and solidarity in an interdependent world.

Amman talks 'constructive'

(Continued from page 1)

think sanctions were yet required to persuade Arabs and Israelis to negotiate.

"I do not think we have come to the point of sanctions. There is still a lot to be done in diplomatic ways which... means... negotiate... to bring the parties to the peace conference," he said.

Following their meeting, King Hussein said Mr. Bessmertnykh's visit to Jordan "is added proof of the world's interest in the Middle East peace process and the need to initiate it immediately instead of closing the windows of opportunity."

"The possibilities and opportunities are there, and I hope they will be taken by all," His Majesty added.

The King underlined Jordan's deep involvement in the Palestinian problem saying that the Kingdom's location and the responsibilities it should shoulder throughout the years have made Jordan "more deeply involved in this problem than any other party."

"If you take the Arab-Israeli dimension of the problem, the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of the problem, we are the opposite side to everything that has happened in the sense that we are the recipient of all the results," he said.

"We feel and are living through all the difficulties and all the challenges, all the human suffering, all the threats

not to ourselves and the region alone, but to the world if the situation is not solved," King Hussein said.

"We are totally committed to the cause of a just, a durable peace, so hopeful we will be able to play a constructive and positive role in bringing it about," the King said.

"Jordan will do everything possible to facilitate peaceful efforts," Mr. Masri told reporters after seeing Mr. Bessmertnykh off to Israel.

"If there is any difficulty with Baker then it should be Israel to be blamed for that difficulty," Mr. Masri said.

Israel has set conditions for taking part in the conference — it says the United Nations should not have a role and that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and East Jerusalem Palestinians should not take part in it.

Mr. Masri said persuasion alone would not make Israel change its policies.

"The whole international community, not just the Soviet Union, should practise pressure on Israel because Israel is the one that is dismantling chances of peace, occupying the lands... and building settlements contrary to all international rules."

"If the situation hinged on trying to convince Israel to take a more lenient position, then there might not be a big chance to achieve peace," he said.

Farmers stage protest march

(Continued from page 1)

cularly the ministers of agriculture and water and irrigation, was aimed at averting a confrontation with the farmers."

Mr. Wishah was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that after touring the affected areas in the Jordan Valley, "it was discovered that there was serious damage inflicted on peaches, grapes and tomatoes in particular." He said different experts gave "divergence of views on the phenomenon."

He said some officials attributed the damage to agricultural pests, while others said it was the soil or the poor water quality.

The JVA chief said the prime minister had set up the specialised committee to "ascertain the real causes" that led to the destruction of crops.

While confusion prevailed in official circles as to the "real" causes, the University of Jordan's water research and study centre maintained that several tests on crops, soil and water had proved that polluted water released from King Talal Dam was the

direct cause.

Tests by the centre confirmed "there is boron toxicity" in the soil and plants.

But the government has not decisively recognised the study, but it conceded that waste water from the Zarqa River Basin mixed with King Talal Dam water was partly responsible for the high level of pollutants in the water.

Mr. Wishah said the special committee would draw up its plan of action next week and launch a study on "all elements of production — soil, water and environment — as the main elements in farming production." He said the committee would present a report "as soon as the causes of the phenomenon are discovered."

To guarantee safe water for irrigation, water experts recommended restoring the now-closed 'Ain Ghazal waste-water treatment plant. They said treatment at Khirbet Al Samra plant, originally constructed for immediate relief for the overloaded 'Ain Ghazal plant, is not satisfactory and as a result the water resources in the area, including King Talal Dam, were rapidly deteriorating.

This week in print

LOCAL newspapers discussed political and economic questions and again dwelt on the Middle East question both in editorials and through their columnists in the past week.

Commenting on a visit to the Middle East by the Soviet foreign minister, columnist, Abdul Rahim Omar said that Moscow holds a trump card represented in the Soviet Jews hoping to emigrate to Israel and can use it skillfully in order to exercise pressure on Israel to accept U.N. Security Council resolutions and abide by them. Writing in Al Rai's daily, the columnist the Arabs felt encouraged by recent statements in Moscow that the USSR is still adhering to its friendship with the Arabs and is intent on seeing Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 implemented. Should Moscow adopt an appeasing attitude towards Israel and succumb to Zionist pressures, said the writer, there can be no credibility in any Arab-Soviet relations in the future.

Al Dstour daily agreed with this view and said the Moscow's current initiative complements those of James Baker and the other European countries. It is the most intensive world-wide campaign to date to deal with the Arab-Israeli question and it is hoped that the Soviet Union would contribute most positively towards the establishment of peace, said the paper.

But this view totally opposed by Muhammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dstour daily who described the Soviet Union's role as next to zero. Washington holds all the papers alone and it is Washington's decision taken under the influence of the Zionist lobby that matters in Middle East questions, said the writer. Moscow's voice is the weaker one in the international arena

and frankly we can say that the Soviet foreign minister's coming tour can by no means contribute one single iota towards reaching a settlement, said the writer.

Another columnist, Mohammad Masalha stressed the Arab demand that only through an international conference that would implement Security Council resolutions can the Middle East enjoy peace and stability. Writing in Al Dstour, the columnist expressed the view that the implementation of the international legitimacy should not be monopolised by a group of nations or a single party.

Several columnists in the daily papers tackled the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship regarding the coming negotiations over a peaceful settlement.

A columnist in Al Dstour vehemently lauded the ongoing coordination of diplomatic moves between the two sides to face the coming stage. Sawt Al Shaab said that Jordan has proved to be a staunch supporter of the PLO and is enhancing bilateral coordination with the Palestinian leadership concerning the implementation of Security Council resolutions.

Taber Udwan said that building of peace can never materialise over the heads of the PLO or Jordan, and stressed the need for the two sides to pursue a bid to strengthen their cooperation. However, two other columnists Tareq Masarweh, who writes for Al Rai, and Saleh Qallab, a writer in Al Dstour agreed that it now was not the time for discussing any prospect of rescinding a decision taken by Jordan to sever administrative and legal ties with the West Bank. All that Jordan can do now is to form a joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating team with

equal authorities, said Masarweh. Qallab warned that any reversal of Jordan's decision on severing ties with the West Bank could endanger the Palestinian position and encourage Zionists to pursue the goal of advocating Jordan as a substitute homeland for the Palestinians.

At least two columnists in the local press showed their dissatisfaction with the Muslim Brotherhood's attitude towards journalists and newspapers criticising the Brotherhood's action. Basem Sakkhija noted with dismay a move by the Brotherhood's interpretation of constructive criticism as something harming the Islamic movement. What the press wants to have is a real dialogue over various issues of concern to the country, said Sakkhija in his Aakher Khabar weekly. The columnist defended reports about the decline in the Islamic movement's popularity in Jordan which he said were true.

Another columnist said that the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Jordan had been boasting that their public rallies are attended by 100,000 people, but such rallies and eloquent speeches can by no means be useful to the country if they are not backed by useful action benefiting the community, said Ahmad Salameh.

Writing in Al Rai's daily, the columnist echoed Sakkhija's call for a real dialogue with the Muslim Brotherhood and noted that one wants to see one would show greater respect to the movement if it offers real service to Islam and society.

Several columnists in the daily press advocated the creation of political parties and criticised those who object to the idea. Saleh Qallab said that columnists should stop any attempt towards reversing democratic process in Jordan. Frankly I say that any hostile attitude towards political plur-

alism can only help the negative elements intent on destroying democracy, the writer noted.

Commenting on statistics revealed by the Public Security Department about crimes in Jordan, Fakhr Kassar, a columnist in Al Rai's daily said that these crimes have their root causes in the poverty which has been spreading in Jordan in the wake of Gulf war. The writer referred to a number of instances in which the police reported robbers stealing cars or breaking into homes. Kassar opposes a view presented by the Public Security director who denied in a recent lecture that there are no organised crime in the Kingdom.

Kassar said that crime persists and is increasing in intensity because of the poverty that is afflicting Jordan. He referred to a UNICEF report which revealed that one third of the country's population were living under poverty line and said that to deal with crime one has to deal with the roots causes of poverty which engenders crime and criminals.

A columnist in Al Rai dwelt on the question of unemployment and the government's efforts to train job seekers in trades wanted by the community.

Hakdar Mahmood said that the Vocational Training Corporation's programmes should be encouraged and its work should be diversified to meet the needs of the community. But he also demanded that community colleges which turn out people with diplomas that can fetch no job should be closed down. The writer said that educational institutions should adapt and adjust their courses to meet the community's needs otherwise nothing can be done to end the problem of unemployment in Jordan.

Deadly impact of toxic waste surfaces

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — In Sao Jose Dos Campos, a town in southern Brazil, workers employed at two plants that recycle lead batteries, mainly sent from the United States, have for some time been complaining of dizziness, cramps, nausea, kidney pains and aches in their joints. They have told health officials how occasional explosions caused by thermal shocks in the smelting furnaces filled the factory with smoke, causing thousands of birds in the factory's rafters to drop dead at their feet. Now tests carried out by public health department doctors have revealed that more than 60 of the staff employed by the two firms, Tonelli and FAE, are suffering from chronic lead poisoning.

Eight thousand miles away, in Naples, a 37-year-old truck driver lies in a hospital bed, blinded and paralysed down one side of his body after being splashed with deadly toxic waste. Mario Tamburini at first told doctors he had had an accident with battery acid from his vehicle. At that stage his discomfort was limited to a severe burning of the eyes. But when, some hours later, he began losing blood from his nose and ears, and having difficulty breathing, the frightened driver agreed to tell the truth so doctors could save his life. He admitted his injuries were caused by a leak from one of 132 barrels of poisonous waste he was transporting from Cuco, in the far northwest of Italy, down to an illegal dump in the countryside near Naples.

The workers in Brazil and the truck driver from Italy are just two of the many victims of what environmentalists claim is one of the world's most dangerous trades — the dumping of hazardous waste by the rich on the poor. The case of truck driver Tamburini has put investigators onto the trail of what they say is a multi-million dollar business, involving companies in Italy's industrialised north, and organised crime gangs down in the poorer south. Since the Italian driver was admitted to hospital, teams of police and soldiers, equipped with sophisticated metal detectors, have been scouring the area around Naples, while helicopters searched overhead. So far, they have uncovered dozens of illegal dumps, including the one where Tamburini discharged his lethal cargo. The barrels, at least two of them punctured, were found buried 30 feet (10 metres) deep a few miles from a small market town. Detectives claim the Mafia is almost certainly behind the racket. Health officials say they are concerned the poison could get into the water supply.

In the past, Italy has often been involved in illegal dumping scandals. Three years ago, almost 4,000 tonnes of illegal waste from Italy were discovered in the Nigerian port of Koko, the result of an illegal arrangement between an Italian businessman and Nigerian officials. The 8,000 barrels of highly toxic substance were loaded onto a ship whose name was to become infamous worldwide — the Karin-B, whose ill-fated odyssey in search of a

port which would accept its dangerous cargo took it from Nigeria to Lebanon to Syria and to Venezuela, before it was eventually forced to head back for Europe.

The same year, an Italian-owned waste trade broker by the name of Jelly Wax embarked on an elaborate and similarly disastrous scheme involving three separate ships, the Lynx, the Makiri and the Zanoobia. Between them, they carried 2,000 tonnes of toxic waste around four continents during a 14-month period, looking for a country where they could offload. In the end, this cargo was also forced to return to Italy.

The international outcry caused by those two scandals galvanised the Italian government into introducing strict laws banning the exporting of toxic waste to developing countries. Aside from Italy, Norway is the only other nation to have such stringent legislation. Sadly, in Italy's case, the measures appear only to have headed the poisons in a different direction. Ecologists say it is this clamp-down that has led to the new dumping business within Italy itself. "Italy is still the worst offender in the Western world, but the industries of the north are now sending their waste down to the south, instead of, say, to Nigeria," said Paola Biocchia, at the Rome offices of the environmental campaign group Greenpeace. "This most recent case (of the truck driver Tamburini) confirms something that we have suspected for some time now, that the clandestine dumping business is controlled by the Mafia."

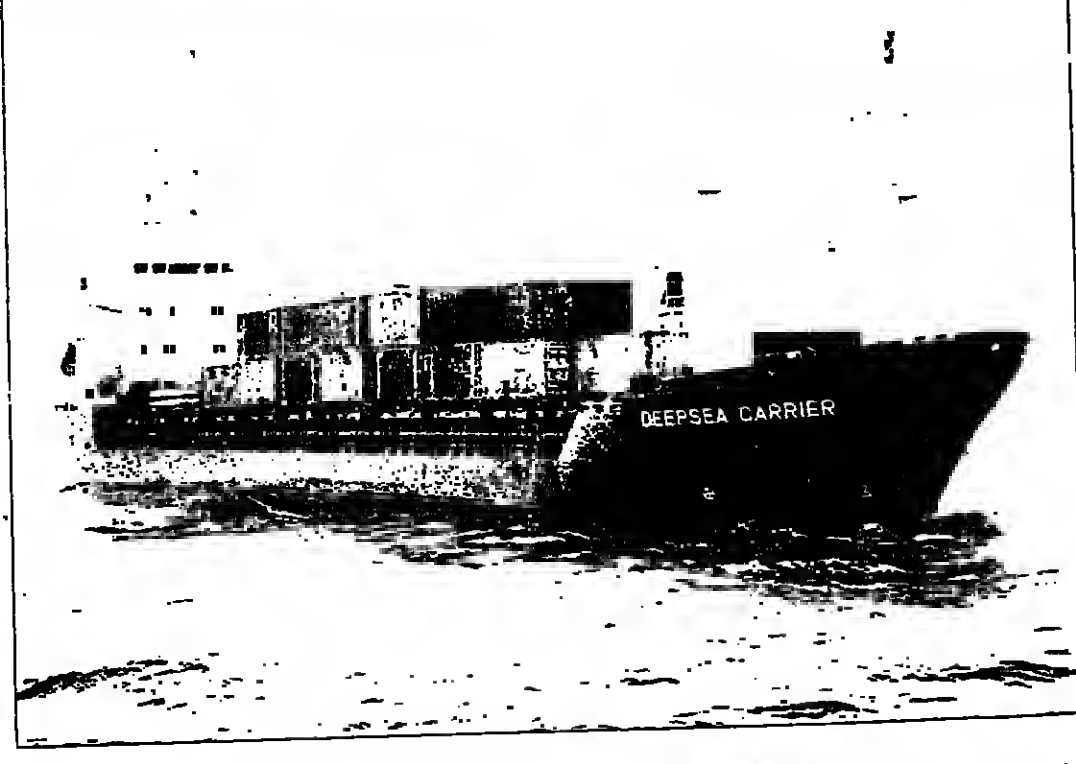
Police investigating the illegal trade say they believe 150 tonnes are trucked down from the north to the south of Italy each year, making an annual turnover of around 1,500 billion lire (\$1.3 billion). "The province of Naples has now become the dumping ground for the whole of Italy," said Raffaele Mastrantoni, a Socialist member of parliament and mayor of a town close to one of the illegal dumps. "It is quite clear that there are links between this illegal traffic and the world of organised crime," he added.

Elsewhere in the world, patterns are also changing, but the problems continue unabated, say campaigners. "The waste trade has changed in terms of geography and sophistication, but the volume has not lessened. It remains very steady," said Jim Puckett, Greenpeace coordinator for the waste trade at the organisation's Amsterdam headquarters. A thick dossier just issued by Greenpeace catalogues over 1,000 attempts to dump more than 160 million tonnes of waste over the past five years. The report estimates 10 million tonnes actually reached their destination, more than half of it to the developing world. "These are just the cases we have been able to document," said Puckett, who helped compile the report. "We're pretty sure it's just the tip of the iceberg. The toxic waste business always follows the line of least economic resistance, of cheaper labour and less strict



Workers wear protective gear aboard the Dutch ship Oostzee. Environmentalists say that, after Africa, the hard-currency strapped countries of

Eastern Europe are fast becoming the top targets for toxic waste dumping. (WNL)



Greenpeace has identified this ship, loaded with toxic waste, as Italian. How many other ships are

sailing in our seas looking for a discreet spot to dump their deadly cargo? (WNL)

controls, so it's the developing world that receives the largest quantities."

From chlorine solvents to mercury, and from metal detritus to incinerator ash, industrial waste comes in many forms. Often the process used to treat it creates new toxins. "The heating of metals, for instance, can create other deadly organic compounds," said Puckett. Unscrupulous methods of getting rid of the waste range from using poisonous incinerator ash as fertiliser, to shovelling it into the ground as road-fill. "You name it, and someone has done it. There is almost no way that has not been tried," said Puckett. "One plan we exposed was to dump California's garbage onto the Marshall Islands in the South Pacific. They tried to convince the islanders that they needed to use the garbage to raise the level of the land to counter the effect of global warming."

The effects of toxic waste on humans and the environment are hard to gauge, says ecologists. "There are the immediate effects, such as the shipment which exploded on board on its way to Poland, and the Brazilian dockworkers, who got sick unloading waste and had to be hospitalised. "One of them died," said Puckett. "But on the rest of the population, it is more of a long-term environmental and health problem. Diseases caused by these substances are likely to show up 20 years down the road."

"Toxic waste can cause a number of serious disorders, including respiratory problems and cancer," noted Paola Biocchia in Rome. "The fact that the truck driver was blinded and half-paralysed just by being splashed by some of the substance gives you some idea of the damage it can do — not to mention the effects it can have once it gets into the soil or the water table."

Campaigners charting the movement of the thousands of tonnes of deadly cargo that are disgorged from the world's most heavily industrialised nations each year pinpoint Poland, Brazil, Taiwan, India and parts of Africa as the areas which receive the largest quantities of waste.

The developing world has made strenuous effort to free itself from the grip of the dangerous trade. In late 1989 the African, Caribbean and Pacific nations (ACP) jointly declared they would no longer accept toxic

waste from the industrialised world. Then, in January this year, 12 African countries signed what became known as the Bamako Convention, drawn up under the auspices of the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) and due to come into force by the end of 1991. The treaty makes it illegal to dump all forms of hazardous and nuclear waste on the African continent. It was devised in response to the United Nations' sponsored Basel Convention, held in 1989, which aimed to halt the export of dangerous waste from the developed to the developing world. The Africans walked out of that convention, claiming it did not go far enough.

Environmental groups also criticised it, saying it did nothing but legitimise the waste trade by demanding more paperwork.

"After Basel, Africans realised that we would have to take the responsibility for protecting our own continent as it was clear that many industrialised nations were unwilling to help us do so," said Wawa O. Leba of the OAU secretariat in Addis Ababa.

The determination of the developing world to call a halt to the dumping has been greeted with enthusiasm by lobby groups in the West. Nigeria, which has in the past attracted some of the largest quantities of waste, has gone so far as to introduce the death penalty for anyone, either nationals or foreigners, caught trying to offload dangerous substances on its territory. The new mood marks an important change from past attitudes, when even governments were prepared to accept toxic substances in exchange for cash, development programme or the building of a new school or hospital.

"Of course there will always be unscrupulous people who will try to get round the rules, but the first important step is to make dumping a criminal act and introduce stiff penalties for those who try to continue doing it," said Puckett.

The next battle-ground will be Eastern Europe, he predicts. Already, there are alarming signs that the former socialist states are accepting toxic waste in return for badly needed hard currency and promises of aid. For these countries, already seriously damaged by more than 40 years of unchecked industrialisation, the effects could be catastrophic, say ecologists.

"Much of the waste trade that was going to Africa is now going to Eastern Europe," said Puckett. "Poland is the only Eastern European nation to have banned the importing of hazardous waste, but it is having tremendous problems enforcing it because it does not have sufficient border controls. For the rest, it's a new issue that they will have to come to terms with. Since we began investigating last October, we have come up against a number of alarming cases."

According to researchers at Greenpeace, 22 million tonnes of toxic substances have been offered to Poland since 1989. Of these, approximately 46,000 tonnes have actually crossed the borders, usually via Austria or Germany. Scandinavian industries have been identified as trying to find a cheap disposal market in Poland for electronic and cable scrap, which are extremely hazardous to human health and to the environment. More than 15,000 drums containing liquid chemical waste, paint sludge, solvents and cleaning agents are lying around in various locations in Poland, stored in unsafe conditions. One worker was killed when an entire shed stacked with drums of poisons exploded. In another case, 5,000 tonnes of filter dust containing the deadly substance dioxin were exported from the Hamburg steelworks HSW to Poland, say Greenpeace officials. Various other Western European steelworks have exported more than 31,000 tonnes of waste via the West German recycling company HTA. The waste contains cadmium, chromium, lead, arsenic and dioxin, say officials. Six thousand tonnes of it are still lying untreated in open dumps in Poland's Szczecin harbour.

In Western Europe, the 12 member states of the European Community (EC) are currently drawing up new legislation to regulate the disposal of toxic waste. But environmentalists claim that the proposals being studied by the EC Council and Parliament fall far short of their goal of seeing a ban on the exporting of dangerous substances, and that they allow dangerous loopholes for so-called recyclable wastes.

This latter issue is a cause for much concern in environmental circles. "We are seeing more and more waste schemes being pack-

aged as recycling under some pretext," said Puckett. "Recycling is a green word, and it seems more benign." he said. "But the laws that allow it, for example those drafted by the EC, mean that basically anything can be transported anywhere in the world if you say it is going for recycling. Often, illegitimate companies say they are going to recycle and instead just dump the waste wherever they can find a home for it. In the developing

world, the level of sophistication of plants treating waste is very marginal, so frequently 20 per cent will end up being recycled, and the rest will just be ditched. Recycling is often just dumping by another name."

In the end, the only really effective answer to the waste trade problem is for the producing countries to take responsibility for disposing of their own poisonous garbage. "If this were

to happen, then the industrialised countries would be encouraged to develop new cleaner technologies," said Paola Biocchia. Added Puckett: "If the rich countries of the West don't have the facilities to get rid of their own toxic waste, it's very unlikely that the poor countries of the developing world and Eastern Europe will be able to deal with it in a satisfactory manner" — World News Link.



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Economy

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1991 7

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
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Currency	NEW YORK Date 8/5/91 CLOSE	TOKYO Date 9/5/91 CLOSE
Sterling Pound	1.7200	1.7185
Deutsche Mark	1.7320	1.7340
Swiss Franc	1.4635	1.4650
French Franc	5.8605	5.8840**
Japanese Yen	138.30	138.23
European Currency Unit	1.1900	1.1835**

** USD Per STG
* European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.81	5.93	6.33	6.50
Sterling Pound	11.87	11.37	11.18	11.06
Deutsche Mark	8.87	8.93	9.12	9.12
Swiss Franc	8.37	8.37	8.18	7.93
French Franc	9.12	9.12	9.18	9.25
Japanese Yen	8.00	7.90	7.75	7.50
European Currency Unit	9.68	9.56	9.56	9.43

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	357.25	6.70	Silver	4.07	.087

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 9/5/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.679	.683
Sterling Pound	1.1670	1.1740
Deutsche Mark	.3918	.3942
Swiss Franc	.4635	.4663
French Franc	.1158	.1165
Japanese Yen*	.4911	.4940
Dutch Guilder	.3477	.3498
Swedish Krona	.1099	.1106
Italian Lira*	.0530	.0533
Belgian Franc	.01909	.01920

* Per 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7600	1.7800
Lebanese Lira*	.0730	.0750
Saudi Riyal	.1803	.1819
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1840	.1860
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2050
Omani Riyal	1.7300	1.7700
UAE Dirham	.1832	.1850
Greek Drachma*	.3600	.3650
Cypriot Pound	1.4260	1.4300

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market*

Index	7/5/91	Close	8/5/91	Close
All-Share	113.31		113.53	
Banking Sector	109.52		109.98	
Insurance Sector	170.93		171.30	
Industry Sector	118.34		118.20	
Services Sector	122.24		122.11	

* December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.			
One Sterling	1.7130/40	U.S. dollar	1.522/27
One U.S. dollar	1.7320/30	U.S. dollar	1.9490/50
	1.4680/87	Dutch guilders	35.56/61
	5.8580/630	Belgian francs	138.75/85
	6.1800/50	French francs	6.7375/425
	6.6210/60	Japanese yen	162.10/60
One ounce of gold	356.50/357.00	Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	

Soviets consider setting up new airline

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union is considering setting up a new airline for long-distance flights, equipped with a fleet of Boeing-747s, the Communist Party daily Pravda has reported.

The newspaper quoted former deputy civil aviation minister Yuri Mamsurov as saying the Government was studying proposals to set up a company known as "Extra Long-Distance Airlines" to compete with the state airline Aeroflot.

Mamsurov, working on the project at the civil aviation ministry, said the company, known by its Soviet acronym ASDA, might be a U.S.-Soviet joint venture, and prospects of it being created were good.

"ASDA will take upon itself the work which Aeroflot is not capable of handling... the Soviet 'Boeings' will transport a much greater number of passengers using the same amount of fuel," Mamsurov said.

He did not say how many aircraft might be involved in the project. He estimated ASDA could make an annual profit of more than \$30 million from buying one Boeing-747 on credit and \$60 million if it leased the aircraft.

Various proposals for acquiring Boeing-747s and 767s were studied last year with U.S. and Japanese banks, the Boeing corporation, leasing firms and airline companies, Mamsurov said.

"In the framework of a Soviet-American joint venture, we want to use such equipment for long-haul flights not only on overseas routes but inside our own country," he said, Pravda gave no further details.

Aeroflot carried about 140 million passengers in 1990 on thousands of routes, but it is still unable to meet demand and its aircraft are not fuel-efficient.

Several independent carriers, seeking to end Aeroflot's monopoly, are emerging in the Soviet Union as a result of market-oriented reforms but they have still to establish themselves.

Mamsurov said Aeroflot had lost its position as a major world airline because of its poor technology.

Chinese premier warns U.S. over MFN trade

BEIJING (R) — China's hard-line Premier Li Peng has warned Americans that the loss of most favored nation status, affecting billions of dollars of trade with the United States, would harm Beijing's reform policy and opening to the West.

Official newspapers quoted him Friday as saying China would forge ahead with economic reforms begun in 1979 but a withdrawal of the preferential trade treatment would hurt American interests.

"Cancelling the most favoured nation status would strike a blow against China's reform and open policy," he was quoted as saying by the Economic Daily.

"And this would be in contradiction with the U.S. statement that the U.S. hopes China will continue with its reform and opening to the outside world."

Li made the remarks Thursday in a meeting with Roger Sullivan, president of the U.S.-China Business Council, a Washington-based group promoting Sino-U.S. trade.

Diplomats called this a new and persuasive argument in China's campaign to save most favoured nation (MFN) status, which reduces duties on Chinese goods in the vital U.S. market.



Li Peng

"If you assume that Congress is moved by the desire to see reform continue, it is quite a powerful argument," said a Western diplomat.

President Bush must decide by June 3 whether to renew for one year the preferential treatment. The White House said Thursday Bush had not yet made a decision.

The move could run into political trouble in Congress where many legislators are attacking China's record on human rights, trade and arms proliferation.

At least 60 congressmen have cosponsored legislation that would link favourable trade treatment to China's human rights policies.

Statistics show wide GNP gap in east, west Germany

BONN (R) — The gross national product (GNP) of what used to be East Germany was just 8.3 per cent of the size of western Germany's economy in the second half of 1990, official data showed.

Eastern Germany's GNP reached 105.3 billion marks (\$72.8 billion) in the six months, compared with 1.28 trillion marks (\$728 billion) in western Germany, the Federal Statistics Office said.

The data was the first since unification on the size of the economy of eastern Germany, which has roughly one quarter of the population and a third of the surface area of former West Germany.

GNP is the broadest measure of the goods and services produced by an economy.

The region's gross domestic product (GDP), which excludes income from abroad, reached

104.5 billion marks (\$59 billion) in the second half of last year.

By comparison, western Germany's most populous state of North-Rhine Westphalia has a GDP of more than 300 billion marks (\$170 billion) over a six month period.

The report by the Wiesbaden-based statistics office also showed that average wages and productivity in the east lagged substantially behind West German levels.

The average monthly pay packet of a worker in eastern Germany was 1,357 marks (\$771), about a third of what his western counterpart took home every

Businessmen find talk of Kuwait 'gold mine' untrue

KUWAIT (R) — Businessmen converging on Kuwait expecting to land lucrative contracts to help rebuild the emirate are finding the going tough.

"The thought that post-war Kuwait is a gold mine is not true. The days of tremendous profits here are gone," said Bob Nilsson, vice-chairman of the U.S. contracting firm Turner International.

"Kuwaitis are excellent businessmen and shrewd negotiators. They'll give you fair but not excessive profit," he commented.

Scores of businessmen, engineers, architects and designers are arriving in large numbers.

"In Britain and the United States, people have a vision of taking a ticket and standing in line at the Kuwaiti money machine," an economic analyst said.

"There is no money to be made but it won't be the amounts people were talking about earlier," he noted.

Businessmen say Kuwait, apart from its blazing oilfields, has not suffered the massive destruction first feared.

"There is no large-scale destruction in Kuwait as first reported," said Merl Service, a 55-year-old engineering looking at business potential for his company, Pacific Architect and Engineering.

"Outside the oil business, what is needed here is a gigantic clean-up job not a rebuilding process," he pointed out.

Iraqi troops reportedly blew up more than 600 oil wells, setting more than 500 of them ablaze. Scores of buildings, power plants and other installations were sabotaged or looted but damage is less than originally feared.

The analyst estimated that reconstruction would cost between \$20 to \$30 billion over the next five years, compared with earlier estimates of up to \$100 billion.

Chimis Lascaris, chairman of the Washington-based Lascaris Design Group International, said structural damage was not huge but a large number of villas and palaces had suffered badly.

He said he and his partners were preparing reports for the ministry of public health and repairing several palaces. Hotels in Kuwait City, which

before basic services were restored had been the preserve of journalists, are now bustling with well-groomed Western and Japanese businessmen.

The Americans, some sporting cowboy hats and boots, hobnob in hotel lobbies with Kuwaitis in traditional white robes.

U.S. businessmen are thought to have an edge over rivals.

"Our country was returned to us through God's will and the Americans," said Ibrahim Al Ghanem, director-general of customs. "The least we can do is to pay back some of the favour."

A Japanese businessman acknowledged that Americans and the European members of the anti-Iraq coalition would get the lion's share of business.

"We don't like this but we have to admit it... they sent troops while the Japanese only gave money," he said.

But he was confident Japanese firms would win several contracts especially in communications and power plants, as Japanese companies had supplied 70 per cent of the equipment in these two fields in the first place.

Luxembourg seeks 14% minimum VAT rate by '93 EC urges fixing minimum income

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Commission has urged EC member states to fix a minimum income for the old and unemployed under their national social security systems.

But, acknowledging the extreme political sensitivity of the subject, the EC's executive put forward a non-binding recommendation which contained only general principles.

It did not say what level should be nor how it should be calculated. The proposal does not cover minimum wages.

The recommendation must itself be discussed and approved unanimously by the 12 EC governments, which would then be under a political obligation to introduce measures within five years. But there would be no legal requirement for them to do so.

A commission spokesman said, however, that such recommendations could be the way for directives which, once agreed by EC governments, are legally binding.

The spokesman said all Community countries bar Spain, Greece, Portugal and Italy already have provisions guaranteeing a minimum income.

But only Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands meet the conditions recommended by the commission, the spokesman said.

The commission suggested countries should ensure a minimum level of help for all residents, including legal immigrants.

There should be no time limit on support, which should be accompanied by a guarantee of health care and access to help with housing, training and other needs, the commission said.

The proposals are based on the social charter, a document signed in December 1989 by all EC governments except Britain which aims to promote and protect social rights in the barrier-free single market after 1992.

The commission spokesman said the proposals had been discussed in advance with senior social security officials from the 12 EC governments whose reaction had been favourable.

Meanwhile, Luxembourg has proposed that all European Community (EC) members should charge value-added tax (VAT) of at least 14 per cent on most products by 1993.

The proposal by the current presidency of the EC also would allow a minimum of five per cent VAT on a special list of goods ranging from food to theatre tickets to funerals.

It leaves open the possibility that countries such as Britain, which charges nothing on necessities such as food and children's wear, could continue to do so at least temporarily.

And it proposes a series of minimum rates for excise duties after 1992 on fuel, cigarettes and alcohol.

EC officials said the paper — the basis for a major debate on taxation by EC finance ministers in Luxembourg — could mark a turning point in the Community's tortured efforts to negotiate the exact rates of indirect tax which will apply in the single market after 1992.

While the Luxembourg package is unlikely to be agreed soon by members, who must settle tax questions by unanimity, officials said it could be the basis for a compromise later this year centred on a minimum VAT rate of perhaps 15 per cent.

"What is important is to get something agreed for the first of January, 1993," said one EC official of the compromise.

EC governments have been squabbling for years over how far to go in aligning indirect tax rates.

The average rate of VAT in the bloc is 16.8 per cent for most products but it ranges from nothing to 38 per cent.

For Luxembourg, the compromise proposal is a major concession because it, along with Spain would have to lift its VAT rate of 12 per cent to 14 per cent by 1993.

But the presidency has abandoned efforts to set a ceiling on members' VAT rates, good news for Denmark and Ireland which have rates above 20 per cent.

U.S. machine tool orders drop sharply

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. machine tool orders, a key indicator of the nation's economic health, fell sharply in March, down 22.7 per cent from a year earlier and 16.2 per cent lower than February, the Association for Manufacturing Technology has said.

Machine tools, which cut or shape metal, are used in the manufacture of a goods ranging from weapons and aircraft to consumer items such as refrigerators and cars.

Although the market for machine tools is relatively small, its level of activity can provide clues to the health of manufacturing and the economy generally.

The level fell sharply in March to \$205.45 million, down 22.7 per cent from a year earlier and off 16.2 per cent from February's \$245.15 million.

Despite the decline in orders, an official took an optimistic view, saying orders in the first three months of the year were still running close to last year's level.

In the first quarter new machine tool orders totalled \$650.45 million compared with \$661.70 million for last year's first quarter.

"We think it illustrates the improving competitiveness of the U.S. machine tool industry," he said.

Foreign orders totalled \$46.40 million in March, a 42.0 per cent drop from \$80.05 million in February and down 39.2 per cent from \$76.30 million a year earlier.

Foreign shipments totalled \$42.05 million in March, up 24 per cent from \$33.90 million in February but, off slightly from \$42.65 million a year ago.

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9 Soviet soldiers wounded in current Armenian-Azeri conflict

KAZAKH, Soviet Union (Agencies) — Nine Soviet soldiers were wounded in an ambush by Armenian fighters just inside Azerbaijan Friday, the first military casualties in the current flare-up of hostilities between the rival republics.

Senior officers said the troops were on an anti-guerrilla operation in the Kazakh region of north-eastern Azerbaijan, an area of frequent shelling and clashes in recent weeks.

"A second Afghanistan has begun here," a helicopter pilot said before taking off from Kazakh with the bloodstained and bandaged wounded for the nearest big town, Gyandzha.

The Kremlin's nine-year war against rebel guerrillas in mountainous Afghanistan cost the Soviet Armed Forces at least 15,000 dead and many more wounded.

The attack came the day after publication of a stern warning from regional military commanders in the Transcaucasus, who said they would take "the most decisive measures" against Armenia unless attacks and insults on army personnel stopped.

The ambush occurred at 3 a.m. (2300 GMT) in the village of Taly, deep in the mountains along the troubled border.

Armenia said Soviet troops had attacked an Armenian village just across the frontier some four hours later Friday.

An Interior Ministry spokesman in Yerevan said two helicopters circled Tavarkar, firing at it for 30 minutes. Then troops crossed the frontier and surrounded the village.

The nationalist government in

Yerevan says Soviet troops have killed at least 48 people in the past 10 days in attacks on Armenian villages in Azerbaijan and in Armenia itself.

Moscow and Azerbaijan blame the violence on Armenian militants who they say are fomenting strife between the two peoples. The army says its troops are just carrying out President Mikhail Gorbachev's orders to disarm illegal bands.

The wounded troops were from the Soviet Fourth Army, which was involved in a bloody operation against another Armenian village in the region, Voskepar, Monday.

Armenia says 15 people were killed, including 11 policemen returning from guard duty in their bus gunned down by troops. The soldiers claim they had acted in self-defence.

The region has been tense since the bloodshed broke out again 12 days ago with army operations against two Armenian villages inside Azerbaijan, near the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Sporadic gunfire has been heard across this section of the frontier almost every day and houses have been destroyed by shelling on both sides.

An Armenian Interior Ministry spokesman said troops crossed the border from Azerbaijan in 11 armoured personnel carriers and surrounded Tavarkar.

It was the seventh border village Armenia said was attacked by Soviet and Azerbaijani forces in the past 10 days.

The Armenian Interior Ministry said troops surrounded two Armenian-populated villages in

side Azerbaijan late Thursday night and opened fire.

The two villages, Manasht and Vozlukh, are located between Armenia and the area which is the main source of the conflict, the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh inside Azerbaijan.

Interior Ministry spokesman Karyun Akopyan said Friday he had no further information on that incident.

But he said Soviet forces had ceased operations for 24 hours to observe Thursday's national holiday commemorating the 46th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe.

"As you can see, Soviet troops did not do anything yesterday during the holiday," he said. "Now they are beginning again."

Meanwhile surrounded by tanks and fearful of attack, residents of this Armenian settlement in the rugged mountains of Azerbaijan reluctantly handed over their weapons to the Soviet army.

By bowing Thursday to overwhelming force and surrendering 11 machine guns, 27 bunting rifles and a handful of grenades, Avtsdashen's 3,000 residents avoided the fate of at least half-dozen other villages along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border which Soviet troops have seized in 10 days.

"They said they would destroy the town, and I think they would have," Artzavashen said. Sgt. Agva Yermenian added, "It's all the same to them that women and children and old people are living here."

Armenia's acting interior minister, Ashot Manucharian, said 48 Armenians have been

killed and 91 taken prisoner in the recent fighting. Many of the prisoners are feared dead, he told a press conference Thursday 150 kilometres southwest in Yerevan, the Armenian capital.

Residents of Artzavashen, a tranquil 5,620-foot high (1.6 kms) farm town whose name means "eagle's nest" in Armenian, awoke Wednesday to find dozens of Soviet tanks and armoured vehicles peering down on them from the surrounding rugged green hills. Ten or more than Soviet helicopters buzzed overhead. An army officer demanded over a loudspeaker that townspeople turn over all their weapons.

"They said, 'we do not want bloodshed,'" recalled Pavlik Demichian, a tractor driver. "They said if we turned in our weapons they would guarantee our lives. If not, they'd level the town."

When townspeople missed a 10 a.m. Wednesday (0600 GMT) deadline to surrender their weapons, the tanks fired warning shots into the air, said local police Sgt. Armen Karapetian.

"It was horrifying. All the children started to cry," said Demichian.

Residents said they have little contact with ethnic Azerbaijanis. "We give them back their stray cattle. They give us back our stray cattle. That's all," said Sergei Arakelian, 23.

Since they have been forced to give up their weapons, townspeople worry they are defenseless against any Azerbaijani attacks.

Even without weapons, "we will not give up. We will find a way to defend our wives and children," said Kirakosian.



F.W. de Klerk

Pretoria, ANC are divided on spears for Zulus

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Government reluctance to ban Zulus from carrying spears is the main obstacle in talks with the African National Congress (ANC) on averting a political crisis, officials said Friday.

Government and ANC sources, who declined to be named, said the two sides were also divided over ANC demands for the dismissal of the police and defence ministers.

The ANC has threatened to pull out of talks on South Africa's political future unless the government meets its demands to halt violence in black townships.

The two sides were holding emergency talks on averting the crisis when the ANC-imposed deadline passed Thursday. Officials indicated a compromise seemed possible.

President F.W. de Klerk introduced new measures to ban weapons in public places in an effort to stem violence. But he stopped short of outlawing spears, which often are carried by members of the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom Party, the ANC's main rival.

Fighting in black townships, which has claimed 150 lives since May 1, mainly pits ANC supporters against Inkatha supporters. Both sides oppose apartheid but differ over plans for a future South Africa.

In another development, the ANC said a white man was shot to death Friday by a security guard when he was discovered in one of its Johannesburg offices.

Police, who were investigating the matter, gave no details about the intruder except his race.

Police said Friday that at least 12 people were killed in black faction fighting over 24 hours, primarily in the Johannesburg region. The dead included six people killed with AK-47 assault rifles in a clash between ANC and Inkatha supporters in Tembisa township outside Johannesburg.

The ANC deadline for pulling out of constitutional talks passed Thursday with the two sides still seeking a compromise. De Klerk said "good progress" had been made. The ANC did not make a statement.

The main sticking point was the government's reluctance to ban spears carried by Zulus. Spears are regarded as "cultural weapons," part of the Zulu heritage, but the ANC says they must be prohibited along with all weapons to stop the faction fighting.

37 killed in 3 tornados that hit Bangladesh

DHAKA (AP) — Tornados, squalls and flooding compounded Bangladesh's distress Friday, and officials said at least 37 people were killed when three more tornados ripped apart their homes.

One U.S. cargo plane carrying medicines and humanitarian aid landed in Dhaka Friday, the first U.S. aircraft to bring relief for the survivors of the April 30 cyclone which began the chain of natural disasters.

A Chinese Boeing 707 and two more planes of aid group Care and the United Nations also arrived Friday with food and medicines for the victims, officials said.

The government says nearly 126,000 people died in the cyclone, one of the worst ever to hit this low-lying nation of 110 million. It has not revised the official figure in six days, despite the discovery of many more bodies.

U.S. Ambassador William B. Milam, who handed over the relief material to Bangladesh officials, said another U.S. plane is expected soon.

Bangladesh weather officials Thursday predicted more trouble ahead. They said another major storm was brewing in the turbulent Bay of Bengal and could strike by the end of May, but they could not predict its force.

India also reported disastrous flooding in its eastern states bordering Bangladesh. Nine people were reported killed in Assam, where the Indian army was summoned to help rescue efforts. The state of Mizoram, which juts into Burma, has been cut off by flooding for several days.

Japan heeded a United Nations call for more aid Friday, saying it will provide an additional \$7.5 million in emergency assistance and \$1.5 million in food aid. The aid raises Japan's total assistance in the Bangladesh disaster to about \$20 million.

Bangladesh needs at least \$1.4 billion in emergency relief but only about \$200 million has been offered, U.N. Disaster Relief Organization Executive Director Mohammad Essafi said Thursday.

Three tornados roared across separate districts of this low-lying delta country Thursday, disintegrating mud and straw homes and disrupting communications.

The Relief Ministry said a total of 37 died in three districts from the storm, and about 500 people were injured.

The ministry said flooding in northeastern and eastern districts have marooned at least 100,000 people, as constant rain swelled the banks of the mighty rivers fed from the Himalayan mountains.

Officials at the government's flood control room said several hundred villages were flooded Thursday by the overflowing banks of the Khowai, Manu, Surma, Kushiara and Gumbi rivers in the northeast.

No deaths were reported from the flooding, but the officials said at least 500,000 people suffered from inundated homes and destroyed crops.

"Some crop fields have gone under four feet water and at least 100,000 people are trapped in their homes," said one official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Yugoslav army given permission to end conflict

BELGRADE (AP) — The army was given permission Thursday to try to end the ethnic conflict tearing at the Yugoslav federation, but the president of Croatia hedged on a key demand that be demobilise police reserves.

Serbian nationalists took to the streets to demand arms to defend their ethnic brothers in Croatia.

The presidents of Serbia and Croatia, Yugoslavia's two largest republics, said they supported the unanimous decision by the collective federal presidency to grant the military more authority to deal with ethnic conflicts in which 21 people have died in the past week.

President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia urged ethnic Croat protesters to end their 2-day-old blockade of a military armoured convoy in neighbouring Bosnia.

But Tudjman said he would not disarm entirely the Croatian police reserve forces, which have been involved in battles with ethnic Serbs.

The reserve force will be suspended "where it is possible, where it is not necessary," Tudjman told a news conference in Zagreb, adding, "where we need to restore order, we shall even activate the reserve force."

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Searchers find wreckage of Indonesian plane; 13 dead

JAKARTA (AP) — Searchers found the wreckage Friday of a plane that crashed in North Sulawesi, killing all 13 people aboard, reports said.

A search and rescue agency officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the F-27 plane was found Friday on the eastern slope of Klabat Mountain, about 40 kilometres southeast of Manado, the provincial capital of North Sulawesi.

The latest report from Manado just said...the victims have been evacuated," he said. "It does not clarify whether or not all of the 13 people aboard were killed in the crash."

However, the Indonesian News Agency, Antara, said all 13 people were dead.

The plane, belonging to the state-run Mervat Musantara Airlines, was carrying eight passengers and five crewmen when it disappeared Thursday on a regular flight from Ternate in Maluku province to Manado, about 2,100 kilometres northeast of Jakarta.

Its last radio contact with Manado's Sam Ratulangi Airport was at 2:37 p.m. (0837 GMT), six minutes before it was expected to land.

Col. Kumbyong of the local air force, who led the rescue efforts, said charred wreckage of the plane was scattered around the area.

"It makes difficult to identify the victims, since the plane caught fire after the crash," Kumbyong said.

Withdrawal of U.S. ship puts pressure on Manila

MANILA (R) — The United States pulled out its only warship based in the Philippines Friday, putting further psychological pressure on Manila to reach agreement on the future of U.S. military bases in the country.

The guided-missile cruiser Sterett left for San Diego, California, where it will be based after a 13-month overhaul and systems improvement, the ship's commanding officer, Captain Thomas Blount, told reporters at Subic Bay Naval Base.

The Sterett will not be replaced, a U.S. spokesman said. The United States did not directly link the Sterett's departure to declassified negotiations on the continued U.S. use of military bases in the Philippines but diplomats said it underlined Washington's commitment to reduce its forces in Asia.

The Americans are also pulling out two fighter squadrons from Clark Air Base and will hand back control of two facilities to Philippine authorities within the next few months.

Mayor Richard Gordon of Olongapo City, which is next to Subic, said the Sterett's withdrawal reflected Washington's budget constraints, but it was also meant as a signal that Washington might pull out if it does not reach agreement with Manila on the bases.

"In the game of diplomacy and negotiations, there are a lot of signals... that to me is a signal that if they can't get an agreement, they will pull out," Gordon said during a farewell ceremony for the Sterett.

Negotiations between Manila and Washington over the bases broke down last Friday after the two sides failed to agree on how much the United States should pay for use of the bases and how long the United States would continue to use them.

President Corason Aquino said it was too early to say that the bases talks had failed and that Manila was preparing for further talks on the continued U.S. use of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Dockyard, Washington's biggest military facilities in Asia.

Their lease expires in September. The Philippines wants \$825 million in annual compensation for seven years. The United States has offered \$360 million annually but wants a 10-12 year term.

A Manila newspaper said Friday the Philippines stood to lose some \$1.8 billion in annual aid, loans and salaries for base workers from the United States if it failed to forge a new treaty.

The bases employ more than 70,000 Filipino workers.

Bush has Graves' disease

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. President George Bush took a dose of radioactive iodine Thursday to begin bringing his overactive thyroid under control and doctors said his health could be fully restored within a matter of weeks.

Bush was diagnosed as having Graves' disease, a common thyroid condition that also affects his wife Barbara, and doctors at Bethesda Naval Centre immediately prescribed the radioactive iodine.

The president sipped a small glass of the solution from a straw and then returned to the White House, declaring he felt "perfect."

"The heart is perfect... so I'm very very lucky," said Bush, whose doctors told him the erratic heartbeat he began feeling while jogging Saturday was due to the thyroid condition. He underwent 2 and one half hours of tests at Bethesda Naval Hospital and later told a group of Hispanic businessmen that he had a "wonderful report" at the hospital.

Doctors said the iodine will migrate to Bush's diseased thyroid and destroy the hormone-producing cells in the gland over the next few weeks.

Dr. Kenneth Burman, an army colonel and a thyroid expert from Walter Reed Army Medical Centre, said the president's health should be "fully restored to his usual state of vigorous health very quickly."

He said by correcting the overactive thyroid, Bush's irregular heartbeat should also be corrected.

Dr. Burton Lee, the White House physician, said the president's schedule may be eased next week to help him recover.

"His schedule will be cut back," Lee said. "I don't think the man should be overly stressed." Later, the White House announced that Vice President Dan Quayle would replace Bush Monday on a trip to Chicago dealing with health programmes for infants and children.

In addition, for the next week or so while the radioactive iodine is in his system, Bush should take "common sense" precautions "such as not getting near his grandchildren or bugging or kissing them," Burman said.

An estimated seven million Americans suffer thyroid problems, with about one million diagnosed as having Graves' disease. The condition is fatal if untreated, but the iodine solution treatment given to Bush has a cure rate that approaches 100 per cent, experts say.

Burman said the process of establishing normal thyroid levels in the president may take from six weeks to three months. He said Bush will be closely monitored during this period, with frequent blood tests.

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5th South Korean sets himself on fire in protest

SEOUL (AP) — A protester poured paint thinner over his body and set himself on fire Friday to protest the beating death of a student by police, a news report said.

It was the fifth self-immolation in two weeks to protest the fatal beating on April 26. Three of the victims have died.

The incident occurred after President Roh Tae-woo rejected demands he fire his cabinet to cope with escalating nationwide protests, and warned demonstrators the government would not tolerate further violence.

Nationwide protests were triggered by the student protester's death in Seoul. Tens of thousands of students, workers and dissidents have staged rallies and violent protests demanding Roh fire the cabinet and make broader economic and political reforms.

The South Korean News Agency, Yonhap, said Yoon Yong-Su, 20, was rushed to the Chonnam University Hospital in Kwangju, 260 kilometres south of Seoul, and was in critical condition.

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Kennedy nephew charged with rape, battery

PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) — William Kennedy Smith has been charged with rape and battery in the March 30 incident at his family's oceanfront estate, the Palm Beach County prosecutor announced.

State attorney David Bludworth also announced the filing of charges against a Florida-based supermarket tabloid, the Globe, which published the name of the alleged victim last month.

Smith, the 30-year-old nephew of U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy, has been charged with two counts: second-degree sexual battery, tantamount to a rape charge, and second-degree battery.

A 29-year-old woman told police she was raped by Smith, a medical student at Georgetown University in Washington, at the Kennedy compound after meeting him earlier in a bar and going with him to the estate. Smith has denied any wrongdoing.

On Thursday morning, officer Craig Gunkel said, "we're going to give Mr. Smith a reasonable amount of time to turn himself in." Smith on the advice of his lawyers, has declined to talk to police.

Senator Kennedy's press secretary did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment. Smith's Miami attorney, Mark Schnapp, also did not immediately return a call.

Police said Tuesday that they were preparing a "probable cause" affidavit recommending that Bludworth charge Smith with sexual battery. That affidavit, covering eight pages, was made public Thursday.

It says Smith physically tackled the victim while she ran to escape, he held her on the ground and pinned her with his body weight. She used her body to try to push him up and off of her, the affidavit said.

It also said that at one point, he told her, "stop it, bitch."

The affidavit says the woman stated that she did not report the incident until hours afterward because she feared that no one would believe her since the Kennedy family is so prominent.

Bludworth's other options included telling police they don't have enough evidence to prosecute, or letting a grand jury decide whether or not to indict Smith.

Bludworth filed two misdemeanor charges against the Boca Raton-based Globe Communications Corp., which publishes a supermarket tabloid called the Globe, the first American newspaper to publish the accuser's name.

The two counts involved were the printing and publishing of a rape victim's name and other identifying information. Wendy Henry, Globe editor, said a statement would be issued later.

Some other media, not based in Florida, have also named the woman, including NBC News and the New York Times.

Bludworth said that at this point he plans to prosecute only one media company. Regarding media companies not based in the state but whose material appears here, he said he found "different facts and technical points that I'm still looking into."

"The chilling effect of printing, publishing and broadcasting the victim's name causes many not to report this type of crime," Bludworth said.

The woman who accused Smith of raping her said that when she

saw her name in print, "my reaction was of being raped again."

"When you're a rape victim, you have to go through a process of recovery, and that process just completely stopped when I saw my name," the woman said in an interview published Friday in the Palm Beach Post.

It was the first time the 29-year-old woman from Jupiter, Florida, has commented publicly since the March 30 incident.

The woman declined to discuss the alleged attack, but said the publicity has been devastating.

"I have strength and courage," she said "But it's been an insurmountable task to overcome what was happened to me."

The victim's mother also criticized the media's treatment of her daughter.

"She is now notorious," the mother told the Miami Herald for its Friday editions. "People seem to forget she is a victim — or as the media identify her — an 'alleged victim.'"

"All we're doing is holding ourselves together," the mother continued. "We have been vilified by the media. We can't stop it... (but) I don't need to defend my daughter. My daughter doesn't need to defend herself. She is a decent, worthwhile human being."

COLUMN 8

Trump sells jet for \$6.5 million

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Donald Trump sold his personal 727 jet for \$6.5 million as he tries to surmount his financial woes, according to a document released Tuesday. The buyer wasn't identified. The jet sale was disclosed in a letter the Trump Organization filed with New Jersey's Casino Control Commission, which regulates Trump's three casinos and the city's nine other gaming halls.

The letter dated May 6 from Stephen Boltenbach, Trump Organization chief financial officer, said Trump will keep half of the money from the jet sale and bank the other half. Boltenbach did not immediately return telephone messages seeking comment on who bought the jet. Trump is reducing nearly \$2 billion in debt to banks by unloading partial and full interests in assets including the Trump Shuttle Airline, Manhattan real estate and his luxury yacht.

U.K. to have new opera house

LONDON (R) — One of the world's most famous opera houses at Glyndebourne, the British Theatre with a garden for a foyer, will be rebuilt at a cost of £33 million (\$36.5 million), its chairman said. Sir George Christie, whose father fulfilled a dream when he built the opera house more than 50 years ago on the grounds of his estate in the heart of the English countryside in the Sussex Downs, said the new opera house would open in 1994.

"This project started with a gleam in my eye, which has developed into a vision of increasingly practical potential — and now into actuality," he told a news conference. The new venue will seat 1,100, replacing the structurally threadbare 850-seat theatre. It will be Britain's first purpose-built opera house since Glyndebourne was built in 1944. No government funds are involved. Glyndebourne is the only opera house in Britain funded by the private sector.